

22 May 2020

Dear Pupils, Students, Parents and Carers

We are sure that many of you will have seen the government's recent announcement about the potential partial reopening of schools from 1 June 2020. The government has been clear that schools will only be able to do this provided that the five key tests set by government justify the changes at the time, including that the rate of infection is decreasing and the enabling programmes set out in the recovery strategy are operating effectively. As a result, we are planning on this basis, ahead of confirmation that these tests are met. The government has confirmed that it will not be until 28 May that they will be in a position to confirm whether students are indeed able to resume some limited face to face contact in schools and colleges. Any on-site activity at Bay House School and Sixth Form and Brune Park School will not begin until 8th June at the earliest.

We feel it is important to communicate that - at this stage - we are not expecting to open either Brune Park School or Bay House School and Sixth Form fully to all learners before September. We have a very large number of pupils and it is important that we manage the numbers of people on site at any one time to ensure it is possible to exercise the required social distancing measures in all areas of both schools. We are currently undertaking a detailed risk assessment of all school sites and putting in place measures to achieve enhanced hygiene practices and social distancing wherever possible. There will be no requirement for all pupils to 'physically' attend school in the next half term and each family will need to make their own decision based on their personal circumstances.

We are currently exploring a variety of options to allow some face to face activity to take place on our school sites for Year 10 pupils (and Lower Sixth students at Bay House) to supplement our learners' online learning. As you will appreciate, our main priority at this time is to make our school buildings safe for any pupils and staff who do come on to site in the coming weeks. We continue to work with the Professional Associations who represent our workforce along with other local schools and colleges to take advice and share ideas so that we are confident that our learners receive the best possible provision in these extremely challenging times.

We have been really impressed by how our pupils, students and staff have adapted to the challenges of new ways of working and learning. The introduction of 'live' lessons has been very well received and we continue to extend this provision over the coming weeks. In addition, as the GFM trust, we have continued to offer childcare places to the priority groups – vulnerable children and children of critical workers – since the end of March and will continue to do so where feasible.

The planning that is taking place for a partial return for Year 10 pupils is focused around supporting students to be in a position to resume their studies fully in the Autumn Term, with a focus on transition to the next year of their final year of GCSE education. It is likely that any planned onsite activity will

have a pastoral focus in the first instance, with one-to-one sessions with pupils. There is also the possibility of small group work in some subject areas in subsequent weeks. A separate communication will give details of our provision for Sixth Form students on the Bay House site.

We will come to a view as to what is appropriate for our trust once additional guidance is published by the government. We will, of course, write to you again after half term, as our planning develops.

Thank you for your continued support through these challenging times.

Kind regards

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