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Dear Parent/Carer,

18 June 2020

After several months it has been pleasing to welcome students and teachers back to the school site this week.

We will be offering some small group teaching to Lower Sixth students from 22nd June until the end of the academic year. The safety of students and teachers remains our primary concern; we have therefore taken the decision to initially limit class sizes to groups of five. Sixth Form students will remain in one area of the school and will not use multiple classrooms during each school day.

Health and safety guidance has been emailed to students and has also been discussed during tutorial appointments. Temperature checks will continue to be carried out when a student enters the building and hand sanitiser is available in all classrooms and corridors. Please note that there will not be any on-site catering at this time and students are encouraged to bring water bottles that have been filled at home. Communal spaces such as the school library, common room and study centre will also be closed at all times. Students who cycle to school should continue to use the Sixth Form bike pound and should ensure that their bike is securely locked within the pound. In an effort to maximise the time we have available, afternoon on-site lessons will conclude at 3:30pm.

Every student has been emailed a timetable which clearly outlines when their face to face lessons are being held at Bay House, in addition to the online lessons which can be accessed at home. It is crucial that students familiarise themselves with their timetable and understand when their lessons are scheduled to take place. If a student is unable to attend an online or on-site lesson they must notify their teacher and a member of the Sixth Form team as soon as possible.

Students will be provided with a live or recorded online lesson in each subject every week. This will support the two and a half hours of on-site lessons which will take place in each subject every fortnight. Independent home learning tasks will continue to be set by class teachers.

A first draft of a personal statement should have now been submitted to tutors. If a student is struggling to complete a first draft they should utilise the guidance which has been shared on the Google Classroom, refer to their UCAS pack and contact their tutor for further assistance. Even if a student is unsure if they would like to apply to university they are encouraged to complete a personal statement. Each year a number of students make a late decision to apply to university and the process is much simpler if a completed personal statement is available. Further drafts should be sent to tutors in the coming weeks.

We appreciate that some students and parents may have some concerns about the commencement of group teaching. If you would like to discuss this, please do not hesitate to contact me via email or by phoning the Sixth Form Office.

Kind regards,

Mr R Dadd  
Head of Sixth Form

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