Whitburn Church of England Academy

An Academy with Specialist Status in Maths and Computing

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'Excellence for All'

23rd June 2020

Year 10 summer 'face to face' remote learning support sessions

Dear Parent/Carer

I hope you are all keeping safe and well? Thank you for your support over the past 2 weeks with helping us facilitate our "face to face" remote learning support sessions with Year 10. It has been great to see so many of the students again and being able to offer help in person to students who needed it with regards to their online learning.

As you are aware, under current government guidance, we have only been allowed to accommodate a quarter of our Year 10 and 12 cohorts on site at any one time. This has meant that for the past 2 weeks we have only been able to have Year 10 with us only.

From next week, the week beginning 29th June we will be "pausing" our Year 10 provision and inviting Year 12 into school for one week only.

We then intend to restart Year 10 provision for the last 2 weeks of term from the week beginning 6th July. The groups will remain in their previous cohorts with Groups A-E returning for the first week and Groups F-J the following and final week.

As you will be aware the current situation is very much subject to change with the imminent changes to the 2m social distancing rule about to be announced. When this rule does become active, this then may allow us to increase capacity within the building and invite more students back onto the premises.

Of course, safety has to be our main driver here and you will have heard from your daughter or son, how thorough we have been in this regard. The daily deep cleaning of all rooms and surfaces used and all toilet facilities has ensured a "COVID secure" environment in line with our detailed risk assessment. Regardless of whatever changes to the social distancing rules, these daily and hourly cleaning routines will still remain active, in order to ensure that both our students and staff can safely work.

PTO

Please see below the additional weeks currently planned for Year 10 students. Of course this may be subject to changes as further government announcements are made.

Week Beginning	Students in school
22nd June	Y10 groups F – J and Key workers
29th June	Key Workers and all of Year 12
6th July	Y10 groups A – E and Key workers
13th July	Y10 groups F – J and Key workers

Over both of the additional weeks, your child will be able to access 15 hours of face to face teacher support for their remote learning, focusing on the core curriculum areas. Each student has been allocated to a group (or 'bubble'), with every 'bubble' comprising of 8 students and a maximum of 7 staff to limit mixing; there will be strictly no mixing with those outside the bubble. Those attending the extended key worker provision will be in a separate zone of the school.

As both of the cohorts are currently full in terms of our numbers available, if the guidance changes and we are able to offer more places in this year group I will contact you again and look to safely accommodate more students on site at one time. This of course will only occur if the Department of Education changes its current rules and guidance.

May I also remind you that, as attendance is not mandatory and we will respect families' wishes with regards to this, we also ask that you inform us as soon as possible if you no longer want your child to access this provision. I am also acutely aware that many families will have faced difficulties and challenges over the last few months; I would ask that you share any such information with us, so that we can ensure the appropriate support is in place for your child.

Once again, I greatly appreciate all you are doing to support the school. Please do not hesitate to contact us via the academy website if any further clarification is needed.

Yours faithfully

J E Crowe
Principal