



15 May 2020

Dear Parent/ Carer

Coronavirus (Covid-19) Update

Following on from Wayne Norrie's letter to you on Thursday the 14 May, I am writing regarding the proposed partial re-opening of the Academy for Year 10 and Year 12 students and for children of Key or Critical workers.

The government has recently published information for parents and carers following the Prime Minister's statement, that, by June 1 at the earliest, Primary schools in England may be able to welcome back children in key transition years – nursery, reception, Year 1 and Year 6. From the same date, secondary schools are being asked to begin some face-to-face support for students in Year 10 and 12, although, these year groups are not expected to return on a full-time basis at this stage.

As you will no doubt have read and heard, this is a provisional date and will depend on the latest medical and scientific guidance from the government. The information below therefore is accurate as of 12 May 2020.

Where can I find advice?

Please see the link below for the advice which has been issued for parents from the government. This document is very comprehensive and has a lot of information which I would encourage you to read carefully.

<https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/closure-of-educational-settings-information-for-parents-and-carers/reopening-schools-and-other-educational-settings-from-1-june>

What does this mean for my child?

We will continue to provide home learning for all students in all year groups until the end of term on Friday 17 July 2020.

We appreciate that this is both an uncertain and fast-moving situation and we therefore want to give you our reassurance that regardless of what else may or may not happen, we will be supporting your child in their home learning for the remainder of this academic year.

What if my child is in Year 10 or 12?

At present, we are intending to supplement home learning for students in Year 10 and 12 with some face-to-face support.

Our priority is the safety of our community and as such will we move our plans and provision forward slowly and carefully. Until I am confident that we can comply with the guidance given by central government, we will not proceed. Our aim is to give students the opportunity to have face to face guidance and support on the home learning work that has and will continue to be set.

Please note that your son/daughter will not be returning to a full timetable, and may not be taught by their own teachers or specialist staff.

This face-to-face support will not start before 15 June 2020 at the earliest. Once we are further along in the planning stages, we will write again with details and to confirm a start date for this supplementary provision.

How will we ensure we manage any risk?

We know that you may have very real concerns about the risk to your child, but we are following all government guidance and planning thoroughly to minimise the risk as significantly as possible.

This includes the following but is not exhaustive:

- Not all students will be on site at all times
- We will minimise movement around classrooms and within classrooms. There will be a maximum of 15 students per classroom and in all classrooms, two metre social distancing will be maintained
- Students will not have any opportunities to socialise when in school or moving around the building
- Entry and exit to the building and classrooms will be carefully managed so that students maintain the two-metre social distance and adhere to hygiene requirements such as using alcohol-based hand gel
- Staff and students will continue to be expected to follow the current self-isolation process if they are displaying symptoms of the coronavirus

Clearly Stanground Academy will only consider re-opening if it safe to do so. However, I would like to stress that despite our best efforts at minimising the risk of virus transmission, we would never be able to eliminate this entirely.

Do I have to send my Year 10 or Year 12 child to school?

As a parent myself, I understand how difficult this situation is and how important the wellbeing and safety of your child is. As such, we respect that you may make the decision at this time to keep your child at home. Please be assured that in line with government guidance, we will not be fining parents of Year 10 and 12 students who do not attend. I also want to reassure you that if you do make this decision, your child will not be adversely affected in terms of their learning. The work the students are required to complete will be sent home in the way we have been doing on the website or via Teams.

What do I need to do now if my child is in Year 10 or 12?

To help us prepare thoroughly and so that we can keep the entire school community safe, it is important for me to know your intention in terms of sending your child back to school. This will enable us to adopt a well-planned approach which is as safe as possible. As such, could I please ask all parents of Year 10 and 12 students to complete the Microsoft Forms questionnaire below:

<https://forms.office.com/Pages/ResponsePage.aspx?id=WnSRoNi3ek2yphNZBT1FECaS9WZIpMRDnDcNrt690qxUMFpRMEkyQzAwSVEzS0k3MEdEUzRENjRBNC4u>

What if my child is in Year 7, 8, 9?

At present, there is no suggestion that these students will return to school before the summer holiday. We will therefore be expecting these students to continue with their home learning. We will continue provide work on our website and contact with staff through Teams.

What if I have two children at the Academy in different year groups?

Only your child in Year 10 or 12 will be able to attend school as outlined earlier in the letter. Any siblings in Year 7, 8 and 9 must continue to stay at home and continue with their home learning.

What if my child is vulnerable or I am a key worker?

Please note that our current arrangements remain unchanged – as such, vulnerable children and children of critical workers **who are unable to stay safely at home**, can request a place at our provision. As this provision needs to be planned for and staffed accordingly please be aware that places are limited and priority will be given to younger students who are unable to remain home alone.

If you will need to access the provision in the coming weeks, can I please ask that you complete the Microsoft Forms questionnaire below so that we are able to contact you to discuss arrangements.

<https://forms.office.com/Pages/ResponsePage.aspx?id=WnSRoNi3ek2yphNZBT1FECaS9WZIpMRDnDcNrt690qxUN0IOSkhQUjdIM0U3TFM2RIIxVUJLVDRNTy4u>

Once again, I find myself writing to you in the most unexpected of ways, and I want to thank you again for your support during this challenging time. We continue to remain committed to making sure our Stanground Academy family are supported as best as possible and we continue to encourage you to contact us if you need our help or guidance.

Yours faithfully



Mr G Carlile
Principal