



5th June 2020

Dear Parent/Carer

COVID19 – Update

I am writing to update you following the government's announcement on 24th May 2020 that secondary schools and post 16 providers could provide some 'face to face' contact from 15th June 2020. The full advice and guidance on the government's expectations can be reviewed here. <https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/coronavirus-covid-19-maintaining-further-education-provision/maintaining-education-and-skills-training-provision-further-education-providers>

The government are rightly concerned that many students across the country have not had any direct access to their teachers since 23rd March 2020 and are encouraging schools and Sixth Forms to bring back a limited number of students. I share their wider concerns about the impact of the lockdown on social mobility and educational progress, however these fears don't directly affect the NCS because all students have had and will continue to have 'face to face' live lessons via Microsoft Teams. **Given our context and our unique position, I have taken the decision not to open the Sixth Form for A level teaching until September 2020.** There are a number of reasons for this, but the overriding one is the government's advice of having no more than 25% of the Y12 cohort on site at any one time. Effectively, this would mean approximately 80 students on site with the other 240 students working independently on cover work set by their teacher at home. This would be providing a diminished educational offer when currently all students are being expertly taught by their class teachers everyday via Microsoft Teams. NCS students continue to be prepared for their A level exams as we would normally do and we wait to hear from Ofqual and the exam boards about their plans for the 2021 A level summer exam series.

We will of course continue to monitor the situation and I will write to you again should the government advice on the number of students permitted onsite change between now and when we break up for the summer holidays (10th July 2020). With this decision being made, we can all move forward with certainty and the Senior Leadership Team and I can begin focussing our time and energy in getting the NCS COVID safe for September 2020, ready to welcome back students from their summer break as well as inducting our new Y12 cohort. We will continue to be guided by the latest Public Health England advice and more specific information will be shared with you once we know more.

Should you wish to discuss the contents of this letter or have any questions or queries please do not hesitate to contact me.

Yours faithfully

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