

22 May 2020

Dear Year 10 and 12 Students, Parents and Carers

I hope that you and your families are well and healthy. I am writing with regard to your return to Furze Platt Senior School in Term 6. As you will have heard Boris Johnson announce the government's intention is that secondary schools "offer some face-to-face support to supplement the remote education of Year 10 and Year 12 students who are due to take key exams next year."

What this means is that Year 10 and 12 will continue to have work set online each week, but will also be invited into school for sessions with their class teacher. These sessions will replace the online seminars that are currently occurring. These will not be 'normal' lessons. Instead, students will be invited into school in small groups in order to comply with government recommendations and prevent the spread of Covid-19.

There will be much more from me on how we keep each other safe at the start of Term 6. In these future correspondences, I will explain details of timetables, one-way systems, equipment, food and drink, clothing, cleaning, social distancing, handwashing and much more.

However, before half term I wanted to outline to you what you can expect at the start of Term 6 so you can ready yourself for what a return to Furze Platt Senior School is likely to look like.

Year 12

Year 12 will be the first students to return to school. We are planning for this to happen from Monday 8 June. Year 12 will attend three afternoons per week depending on the options they have chosen. Students will be split into two halves of the year group. One-half of the normal group will attend for the first hour, the other half will attend for the second hour. This means that no lesson will have more than 12 students and we will be able to maintain social distancing and learn safely. The lesson will be the same for both halves and help support the work set that week. Students will get a timetable in the new term to explain how this works in practice and what room your lesson will be in.

In order to help students revise their learning from Year 12, ensure they have revision notes for the year and to help develop examination technique, we will maintain the scheduled mock examinations, albeit on a later date (the week commencing 6 July) to ensure that they have had four weeks of sessions with their teacher beforehand.

Year 10

Providing systems run smoothly, the plan is to phase Year 10 into school from Monday 15 June. Year 10 will get a timetable in which normal classes are split to reduce numbers. Each band of Year 10 will attend in the morning every other day (to avoid contact with Year 12). They will attend two lessons most days although on two days a fortnight there may be a third lesson to accommodate Science. Like for Year 12 the purpose of these sessions is to support ongoing work at home.

I hope that starts to help you understand what to expect in the new term. I am sure that you will have questions, not least about how we will keep students safe. Please rest assured that these are being addressed and you will have these questions answered at the start of Term 6. I know that you would not want us to rush such important consideration so I ask for your patience as we finalise matters. Please wait until you have the chance to read further detail before contacting us.

Finally, I do need to prepare you for potential unknowns. For example, we are told that a final decision on students returning to schools in England will be made on 28 May based on the latest science. We are also still waiting for the Secondary Guidance to be published by the Department for Education. We also need to be sure we have minimised the risks for staff and students before inviting students back. I am therefore ending with the caveat that the details in this letter may change, but I hope to see Year 10 and 12 students back at Furze Platt Senior School in the near future.

Have a lovely Half Term. Keep safe and well.

Yours sincerely

Dr Andrew J Morrison (BA Hons, PGCE, MA, PhD)
Headteacher