



Tring School

CEO of the RLP: Mrs Susanna Collings BSc(Hons), MA, FRSA
Head of School: Mrs Sally Ambrose BA(Hons), NPQH
Mortimer Hill Tring Herts HP23 5JD



Friday 19 June 2020

Dear Parents and Carers

Head of School Update

At the time of writing this communication I find myself taking one step forward, two backwards and then round and round in circles as I try to process the ever changing guidance that trickles out from the DfE with regard to the expectations for Secondary Schools and the return to school.

As parents, you are searching for reassurance and clarity regarding your child's education and future from me as the Head of School. I am aware that you are all reading the same guidance and will have your own thoughts on what we should do and how we should prioritise different students' emotional and social needs during this challenging time. However, what I would not expect you to completely appreciate is the immense levels of logistical complexity required to achieve the competing demands for all students with so many competing needs.

All staff have returned to school this week and have felt reassured by the physical changes to our environment, which enable more staff and students to be on site safely. The latest guidance shared on 15 June, confirmed that students in Year 10 and Year 12 should continue to be prioritised for face to face contact with their teachers. We have successfully implemented Tier 1 of our strategy for Year 10 and Year 12 students online learning to be supplemented by face to face meetings, shared in recent communications. It has been so lovely to see the impact of students and staff working together this week. All Year 10 and Year 12 students have been invited to make 1:1 appointments with their class teachers to take place over the next two weeks, whilst following very strict guidelines on school site and ensuring 2m social distancing from everyone at all times. Please be mindful that as teachers increase their face to face contact with students over the next few weeks, students at home may be required to complete more of their work more independently.

The guidance also suggested that schools could, if they wish, open this offer to students in other year groups. This would have to be in the final two weeks of term as we already have the maximum number of students committed to attending school over the next two weeks. I totally understand and appreciate the need for all students to benefit from the social and emotional connection of meeting with staff and peers. However, I have to also weigh this up with the amount of time we could fairly offer each student and the restrictions that would be placed on any activity offered which could prevent this from being a positive experience for the students. In addition, the more we do for a small number of students in school, hugely impacts on the provision for the students who remain learning from home. The summer holiday period will allow students the time to reconnect socially and emotionally with their peers, under less restriction and thus provide a more positive and frequent experience.

Tel: 01442 822303 Email: tringschool@tringschool.org www.tring.herts.sch.uk



Therefore, with the understanding that every decision that we take at Tring School is centered around achieving what we firmly believe to be the best to support the learning, social and emotional development of all our students we will continue with our outstanding online learning provision for all students for the remainder of this academic year.

There is a lot of talk in the news about Summer School for students who have fallen behind. Please can I remind you all that Tring School has not closed or reduced provision over the last 12 weeks and therefore, our students are largely up to date with their learning and all deserve their summer break.

We have been promised guidance around the plans for opening school for more students in the Autumn term. If given the opportunity, we will open as soon as possible to as many students as possible, most probably on a rotational basis. Schooling will be blended, with some lessons in school and some lessons online. My next main communication with you all will hopefully provide further detail regarding the return to school plans for the Autumn term.

And finally, I would like to share with you all a prayer from Reverend Jane Bannister -

It's difficult to live with uncertainty.
However bad a situation,
knowing what you have to face
means that you can start coming to terms with it,
facing your fears,
planning your strategy.
When the 'big picture' is too big or too blurred
and indistinct,
it's easier to focus on small details,
to try to control what you can.

The world has changed,
how does that affect our living in the meantime?
How do I need to change?
How do I want to change?
Is it possible to live each day as a new opportunity,
while knowing that it feels the same as yesterday?

I need your help, God,
to listen for you in the clamour of voices calling for my attention,
to focus on you in the midst of competing priorities,
to trust you in this time of uncertainty.

Amen.

As always, thank you for your continued support and praise for our amazing school.

Kind regards

Sally Ambrose
Head of School