



Tring School

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Mortimer Hill Tring Herts HP23 5JD



Friday 5 June 2020

Dear Parents/Carers

Head of School Update

I hope you and your families had an enjoyable half term break and continue to be safe and well. The good weather has certainly helped over the past few weeks, allowing us to be outside. Social contact guidelines are being modified to allow families to connect with people from different households which has been a blessing for many.

When we look back to 18 March, when the announcement was made that schools would be closing, I have to admit that I didn't really comprehend that we would still be in this position now and potentially as we return in the Autumn term. Staff and students certainly put every effort into securing established and proficient online learning habits and I continue to be extremely proud of them all.

As we moved towards the end of the last half term, staff were beginning to notice the fatigue of students' energy, engagement and quality of work that was being produced. This is often the case at this time of the academic year, but even more understandable for students who were working hard without the play! I know that I was certainly struggling with this.

Year 9 students started their GCSE Option subjects this week, after a technical glitch. The timing couldn't have been worse! Hopefully, all students now have full access to their lessons. If they continue to have difficulty please contact it@tringschool.org

Over half term our site team have been working hard to prepare our premises to be able to safely welcome more students back into school over the next few weeks. Classrooms have been stripped of excess furniture and are now equipped to accommodate 10 students per room; cleaning products are in each room for students to take personal responsibility of cleaning their workspaces and equipment before and after use; one way systems have been introduced in each corridor, as well as social distancing markers and reminders inserted; the canteen area has been reduced to ensure that students only sit 2m apart and again, excess furniture has been removed. We have amended our Health and Safety Policy and Procedures to ensure that we are fully COVID 19 compliant.

As our students are older, we do not have to operate a system of 'social bubbles' to prevent students from mixing. It is expected that children of 11 years+ will be able to act responsibly and socially distance themselves, whilst moving around the school.

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Whilst we have made the adjustments to our environment outlined, the DfE has made it explicitly clear that the main form of education for all year groups will continue to be online for the remainder of this academic year and almost certainly for the start of next year.

We have been advised that in addition to the onsite provision that we are currently providing for the students of essential key workers and our vulnerable learners, as of the 15 June, we can extend this to provide face to face sessions to supplement the online learning experience for 25% of students at any one time in Years 10 and 12.

Three tiers of support for Years 10 and 12

Our intention is to bring students of these year groups back into school on a phased return, without diluting the quality of the current provision.

- i) w/c 15 June - Re-engagement of students who have fallen behind
- ii) w/c 22 & 29 June - Academic Review appointments - Every student receives a 10 min face to face meeting with each of their teachers
- (iii) w/c 6 & 13 July - Select students to receive group tutorials during timetabled lessons. Further information will be sent directly to parents of these year groups next week.

During this time we will also be welcoming new Year 7 students and families into school for their induction activities into Tring School.

Year 11 students who have requested to complete an Internal Assessment will receive a timetable, dress code and expectations this week. All assessments will take place in the Neville block away from other students. Classrooms have been set to accommodate 10 students at a time; students are required to clean their own workspace before and after use and adhere to the one-way system outlined.

Year 7-10 & 12 - Our staff regularly go above and beyond our expectations in their commitment to providing outstanding remote learning and following the feedback collected from the Parent, Student and Staff surveys, I would like to share the expectations communicated at the start of the lockdown -

- All lesson work will be set at the start of each timetabled period
- Classwork will be set on Google classroom
- Where possible, teachers will be available online and students can ask questions via the chat option
- Where appropriate, teachers will conduct a live lesson via a google hangout
- Teachers would provide brief encouragement after every two lessons

Some parents have asked if the work can be set outside the window of the lesson to enable them to support their child. The learning activities are always available after the start of the lesson. At this point in time we feel if we change the scheduled time, students may rush through the work set and lose the set structure of the day.

As we enter the initial phase of return for students, we require more staff on school site meeting with older students and therefore, you will see us adjust to a 'blended provision' where students will have a mixture of pre-set work and live lessons.

In response to feedback, we will now be changing the format of our feedback. Students should have gained confidence that their work is being noticed and we will now move to a less frequent, more informative feedback system. During this next half term, students will receive two pieces of SIR feedback for each subject.

As always, I will endeavour to keep you updated with our planned return strategy in line with DfE guidelines. There has not been any information released yet with regards to the phased return of other year groups or an indication of improved measures to allow greater capacity on the school site.

Thank you for your continued support and patience. If you have any concerns, please do not hesitate to be in contact - tringschool@tringschool.org

Kind regards

Sally Ambrose
Head of School