



Headteacher
Ranjit Berdesha BSc (Hons)

Heston Road
Heston
Hounslow
TW5 0QR

T: 020 8572 1931

E: info@hestoncs.org

W: www.hestoncommunityschool.co.uk

20 May 2020

Dear Parents and Carers

In recent announcements the Government has expressed the wish for secondary schools to prepare, from 1 June at the earliest, to “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”. All secondary schools in Hounslow are planning with this intention in mind and are keen to return to normal schooling as soon as possible.

However, individual schools will be operating differently for the rest of this term, determined by their own assessment of risk, taking into account factors like staffing levels; site constraints and transport issues. Please be assured that these individual school decisions are taken with the best interests of students and staff remaining the most important consideration. In addition, schools will continue to work together to plan for the next school year, sharing best practice to manage learning during these challenging times.

Further information on these proposals can be found below:

<https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/actions-for-educational-and-childcare-settings-to-prepare-for-wider-opening-from-1-june-2020/actions-for-education-and-childcare-settings-to-prepare-for-wider-opening-from-1-june-2020>

As a father of two children, I recognise how difficult it is for families to stay indoors and ‘home school’ for months on end. Heston staff also appreciate that this is becoming more difficult as time passes. We all want our students to return to school, but only if this can be managed safely and when the time is right. School is an important part of all our lives, a place where our children have the opportunity to meet friends, learn new skills and to be stimulated and challenged.

Senior staff are exploring how staff and children can return to school safely. We are investigating how this process might be managed, but I do want to set out some of the basic principles that we have taken from the Government guidance:

- Any phased return will be managed with extreme caution so that all of the necessary protective measures can be put in place
- It will be a gradual approach – all schools will be different post Covid-19
- Risks are still being assessed to decide if and how this can be done

We ask that you treat the Government’s ‘ambition’ for students return to school with caution, as the practical details to manage this safely are complex. Understandably, many parents will have concerns about sending their children back to school. We will explain our plans in as much detail as we can in advance, so that you can send your child back to school, confident in the knowledge that they will be safe.

Feedback

As always, your feedback is very much appreciated. Due to the amount of work that is involved in planning for a safe return to school, it will not be possible to answer every query individually but we

 **Specialist Visual Arts Academy**

are planning to group your questions together and address the issues that have been raised in future communications. If you would like to share your views on the Government's plans to re-open secondary schools, please send them by email to info@hestoncs.org with the title: 'Plans for re-opening Heston'.

Home Learning

Learning at home is very different from learning at school. The majority of our students will be away from school for the foreseeable future. We recognise that the longer this carries on, the harder it gets.

We are constantly reviewing the way that we support children's learning at home. We will continue to review how we support remote learning. A number of staff will be experimenting with Microsoft Teams to enhance our communication with your children.

We would like students to try their best to follow the timetable below:

| KEY STAGE 3 | Mon | Tues | Wed | Thu | Fri |
|---------------|-------|---------|---------|-----------|------------|
| 10:00 – 11:00 | Maths | English | Science | History | French |
| 11:30 – 12:30 | Maths | English | Science | Geography | Art |
| 13:30 – 14:00 | PE | PE | Drama | Dance | Well-being |

| KEY STAGE 4 | Mon | Tues | Wed | Thu | Fri |
|---------------|-------------------|-------------------|-------------------|-------------------|------------|
| 10:00 – 11:30 | Maths | English | Science | Humanities | Option 1 |
| 12:30 – 14:00 | Maths | English | Science | French | Option 2 |
| 14:30 – 15:00 | Independent Study | Independent Study | Independent Study | Independent Study | Well-being |

Home Learning Guidance

1. Each subject will only set work once a week, on the day published on the timetable [with the exception of KS3 PE]
2. KS3 students are set 2 hours of work for English, Maths and Science, 1 hour for Humanities, French, Art, PE and Performing Arts
3. Year 10 students are set 3 hours of work for English, Maths and Combined Science and 1.5 hours for Humanities, French and Options
4. KS4 Option subjects include Business, Drama, Fine Art, Graphics, Photography, Food, DT, Computer Science and Separate Science [Physics]
5. Well-being activities will be sent from Learning Coordinators to support the mental health of your child
6. The day the work is set and the due date will be the same on all issued work, so that it appears chronologically on SMHW supporting your child in structuring their learning

Thank you again for supporting the School in ensuring learning continues during the Lockdown. We know it isn't easy, especially for those of you who are required to balance working from home with supporting their children's learning whilst juggling who has the priority over the computer.

We will write to you again once we have explored the issues involved in organising a partial and limited re-opening for some of our students in greater detail.

Once again, I would like to assure you that the safety and well-being of our students, staff and parents remains our top priority.

Yours faithfully



Mr M O'Hagan
Deputy Headteacher