

Dear Parent/ Carer

Parent/ Carer Update 22nd June 2020

After our first week of wider re-opening I thought it would be good to provide an update to parents/ carers. Last week the seminar sessions for Year 12 students commenced and were well attended, with the other half of each group attending this week. We have also been offering some face-to-face support for targeted students in Year 10 which, from next week, includes all our Year 10 students. We also continue to have a number of critical worker/ vulnerable students who attend full time. Students have been very sensible in following the new ways of working on site and I must pass my thanks on to the site and cleaning team who have done a fantastic job in ensuring the school has been able to open more widely.

Virtual Timetable and Face-to-Face sessions

We are continuing to run the full virtual timetable for all year groups (except Y11 and 13) and have timed our face-to-face offer to sit alongside this where possible, so we can continue to maximise the learning of students across all year groups. We have also ensured that, at all times, we do not exceed the 25% rule of Y10/Y12 students on site, including students in these year groups in the critical worker full time provision.

Over the last couple of weeks we have been seeking students and parent feedback through Student Progress contact, PSHE lessons and Parents in Partnership. This is continuing to help us refine our approach to student learning at this time. The feedback has generally been very positive and students continue to engage well with their learning. However, we have found that some students have expressed that they perceive they are behind in their learning. Whilst this is completely understandable it is also important to remind our students that, because of their excellent attitudes to learning, alongside our teachers being able to continue a full virtual timetable through Firefly/ Teams they have been able to continue their learning and progress in a way that many of their peers nationally have not. Therefore, if they have engaged well and kept up to date with their remote curriculum activities, they should have confidence that they are in a good position as they move towards next academic year.

End of year reports

We are currently looking at how we report at the end of term on students' learning and engagement during the period of remote learning. Mr Hoyle will be updating parents and carers shortly on plans for this.

Gatherings

Since half term we have restarted our weekly Gathering programme and students can access this through Firefly each Monday. There have already been some thought provoking messages so far and excellent musical performances. Thank you to the students and staff who have been involved in these and to Ms Holdsworth for putting together the programme for this term.



Sports Day

Our annual Sports Day is one of the highlights of the school year and we always have very high levels of student participation. This year we are doing things slightly different, Miss Wingate and the PE team have put together plans for a fantastic virtual Sports Day, which we would love all students to get involved in.

For the first time this will include our new Year 7 students who will be joining us in September this is a great way to welcome them into our school community and the House system. Further details of this will be shared with students in the Gathering on the 29th June and events will take place during the following week. The activities are being set so students can complete them at any time during each day so they will not miss their virtual lessons.

Year 11 and Year 13

I am very conscious this has been a very unsettling and challenging period for our students who would have sat examinations this summer and that students missed out on the normal leaving events that take place. I would like to reassure students in these year groups that they are still in our thoughts and that once we are in a position to do so we will be ensuring we formally mark their end of Year 11 or 13.

For the many Year 11 students who are returning to SGHS for Post 16 study, Mr Blythe has sent out transition information and subject bridging materials. If for any reason students did not receive this, please contact Mr Blythe directly blythem@sghs.org.uk or e-mail sghs@sghs.org.uk.

Can I also remind parents and students the dates of A-Level and GCSE results days are as follows:

A-level: Thursday 13th August 2020

GCSE: Thursday 20th August 2020

Edtech Demonstrator School Update

As I mentioned after the Easter break, we are delighted that SGHS has been designated as an Edtech Demonstrator School by the Department for Education, one of only 20 nationally. This was based on the excellent use of technology by students and staff in teaching and learning over the last few years, especially during the period of physical school closures. Mr Hoyle, Assistant Headteacher, has been leading the project and is currently working with over 50 schools across the region. In particular, over the last few months, Mr Hoyle and his team have been working to provide guidance and support to schools around how they can develop and embed remote teaching technology where schools have not been able to maintain virtual timetables.

As we move towards reopening of schools for all students in September the project focus will change to helping schools develop the use of educational technology across a wider range of areas. If any parents/ carers are interested in finding out more about this area of the school's work there is a dedicated webpage giving further information, including upcoming webinars for teachers/ school leaders <http://www.sghs.org.uk/our-school/edtech-demonstrator-programme/>

September planning

As we enter the last four weeks of the school term, we are well on our way with planning for September. We are all very much aware how disruptive this period has been for families and

young people across the country and are pleased to hear the government's intention to allow all year groups back into school in September. We understand further guidance will be issued from central government in the next few couple of weeks and we will then communicate full details of the start of term arrangements for students. Our subject teams have been working hard on their curriculum planning for next academic year to ensure teaching sequences are adjusted to take account of any potential areas students may need additional support with.

Critical worker children supervision

Please can I remind parents/carers that we continue to offer full time supervision in school for children of critical workers. If either parent is in this category and you would like to access this provision but haven't already, please e-mail sghs@sghs.org.uk and further details will be sent to you.

Finally, I would like to thank all parents/ carers for their ongoing support of the students and the school over the recent months. I know this has been a challenging time with many parents juggling work and childcare and I'm sure we are all looking forward to the full reopening of schools as soon as possible.

Best wishes

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Mark Turner', with a long horizontal flourish extending to the right.

Mr Mark Turner
Head of Academy