

WESTCLIFF HIGH SCHOOL FOR GIRLS

An Academy Grammar School
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5th June 2020



Dear Parents and Carers,

I hope you remain well. We are aware of a few Covid-19 issues and other challenges in our community, and our thoughts are those concerned.

Telephone Calls Home

Staff will be telephoning home next week to make contact with our pupils. Please be ready to take this call.

As from Friday June 26th we will end making calls to parents/pupils in Years 11 & 13; this ties in with the period they would no longer be in school after external examinations. If you feel it would be helpful for these calls to continue until the end of term, please advise the member of staff who calls you for this to continue. If there are concerns then please still contact the school.

Pupils needing to be in school

School continues to be open to provide a learning space for the children of Key Workers where there is no one at home able to supervise them, or for those who are vulnerable. If your child needs to use this facility, please email generalenquiries@whsg.info to register for this.

We have had a few requests as to whether we can stay open a bit longer so Key Workers are able to undertake their shifts; for pupils needing this facility we will be staying open until 5.30pm. If your child needs to stay later, please ensure this is included in your email which should be received by Thursday the previous week.

Re-opening the School

You will be aware that the Prime Minister made an announcement deferring the reopening of secondary schools until June 15th.

Since then various concerns have come to light which mean we must continue to tread cautiously:

- The country remains at Risk Level 4;
- That 5 scientists on SAGE have now said the lockdown is easing too soon;
- The Independent Sage Group (led by a former Government Chief Scientist) has recommended schools should not open before June 15th;
- There is challenge to the government's assertion that the 'five tests' have been met;



Science



Engineering



Southend-on-Sea



- We do not have a working test/trace/isolate system in place (and this is unlikely to be properly operational before the end of June);
- There are reports that the R value in Southend is showing an increase (though this is disputed by the Local Authority who only reference the R number for the East of England; this is reported as 0.73)
- The Independent SAGE group have reported that the R number will rise by 0.3 when schools open in the way planned;
- The Chairman of the UK Statistics Authority, Sir David Norgrove, has written to the Health Minister (Matt Hancock) saying the presentation of figures appeared to be aimed at showing "the largest possible number of tests, even at the expense of understanding". We understand that the number of tests carried out each day does not tell us about the number of people tested i.e. a nose and throat swab on the same person counts as 2 tests, and a postal test counts as a test even if not returned;
- The coronavirus test has a false negative rate of around 25%.

On Tuesday 2nd June the Director of Public Health for Southend told Headteachers:

levels of infection, incidences of positive diagnosis, and fatalities associated with COVID-19 were all, in Southend, on a "significant and sustained downward trend"

It is with that assurance that we are making tentative plans to reopen from Monday 15th June, but will need to amend them if there is a significant reversal.

Our plans have been made harder by the Guidance issued to secondary schools stating that no more than 25% of Year 10 or Year 12 should be in at any one time.

We will issue a timetable for the activities we are planning, but as **a guide** we are looking at:

Monday June 15th – Friday 26th June

Year 12 will be at home undertaking school examinations

Up to 25% of Year 10 in for 2 days of the first week to undertake Form time/wellbeing and face-to-face support in core subjects.

Following this there will be a deep clean, then the second 25% in for 2 days. This is to be repeated the following week so all Year 10 pupils have the opportunity to attend school.

Wednesday July 1st – Friday July 10th

Year 12 wellbeing and examination review sessions

Monday July 13th – Friday July 17th

2 days for Year 12, focusing on UCAS/HE/Careers preparation

3 days of Year 10 to 'touch base' and focus on coursework subjects

This attendance is not compulsory, and the face-to-face support provided will not replace the remote learning taking place.

We will confirm the program for each week in this letter home along with information about the dress code and need for PPE.

Test and Trace System

Whilst currently in its infancy, the Test & Trace System will soon be in a much better place.

I would strongly encourage you to use the testing system if you develop symptoms of cough, fever, or anosmia.

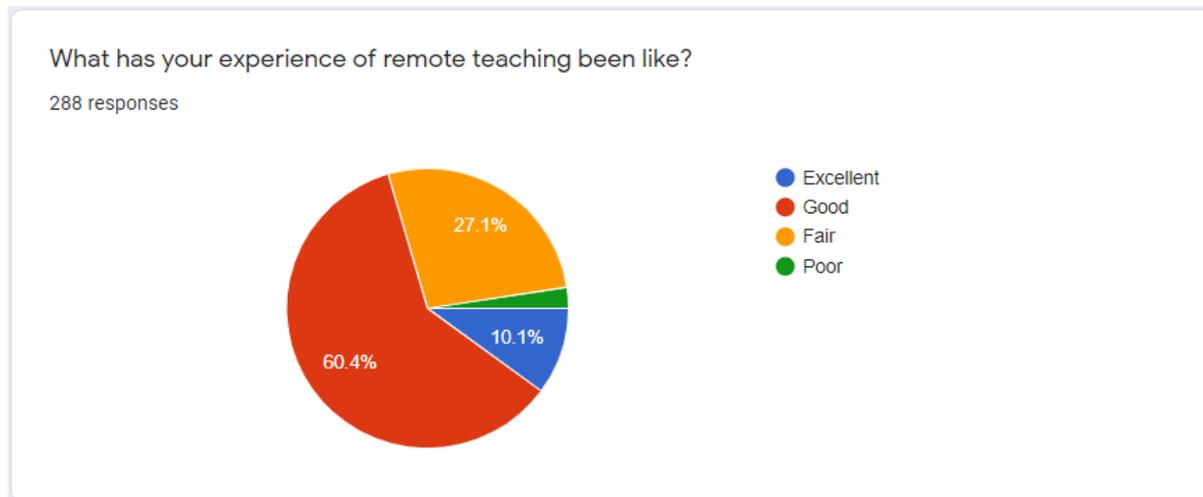
The drive in test centres are returning most of results within 24 hours; the same cannot be said for home testing, so I would encourage you to use the personal attendance route where possible.

Given the level of false negatives, please get re-tested if the result is negative and the symptoms continue.

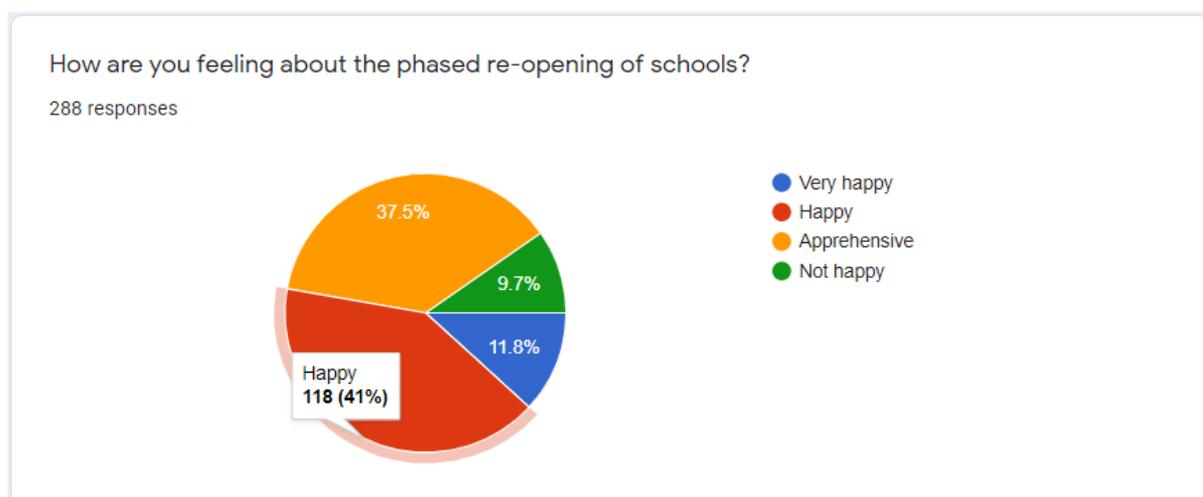
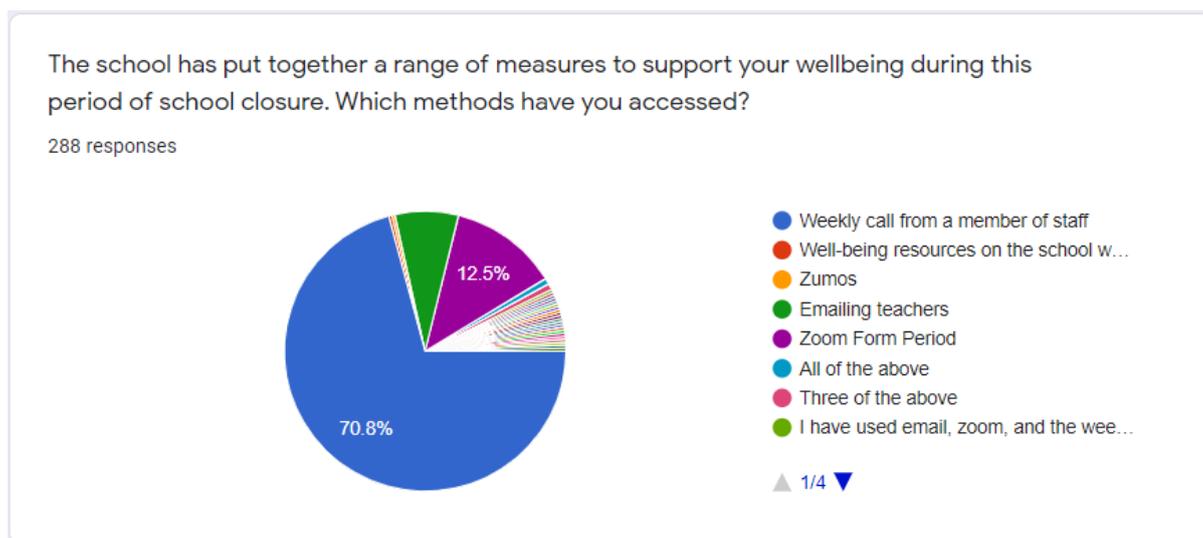
Feedback from the Student Questionnaire to Years 7, 8 & 9

Thank you to all the students who completed this, and for the lovely comments that were made, these will be shared with staff. Un-surprisingly the students' concerns reflect those of everyone. As a school we have aimed to address these through the systems that we are putting in place for the phased re-opening of WHSG.

These charts show the responses to the questions we sent out. There were 288 respondents, nearly half of which were from Year 9.



In the written feedback there was a mixed response to the experience of remote teaching. Some pupils mentioned too much work. There were many compliments about the efforts of staff to explain work. A number expressed concern at not being able to talk to others.



Written responses focused on the need for counselling once school reopens.

The final question was open ended about concerns on a return to school. The main issues were:

- Maintaining social distancing
- Ensuring provision of hand sanitizer
- A number would prefer to wear face masks.

Year 12 School Examinations.

The RS examinations have been moved to avoid a clash that resulted in some students needing to sit three long examinations in one day. All students that have been impacted by this change have been individually informed.

	Period 1 (8:50 start)	LUNCH	Period 4/5 (1:25 pm start)
Mon 15 Jun	Biology Paper 1 (61) 60 min D&T Graphics Paper 1 (8) 60 min RS Paper 1 (2) 90 min		Business Studies Paper 1 (22) 90 min Drama (7) 70 min RS Paper 1 (19) 90 min French: Reading, Listening and Translation (9) 90 min
Tue 16 Jun	Chemistry Paper 1 (71) 60min		Psychology Paper 1 (60) 90 min Physics Paper 1 (32) 60 min
Wed 17 Jun	History Paper 1 (42) 90 min		Spanish: Reading, Listening and Translation (7) 90 min English Lang&Lit (13) 70 min Economics Paper 1 (15) 60 min
Thurs 18 Jun	Maths Paper 1 Pure Maths (72) 90min Further Maths Paper 1 Pure Maths (20) 75 min		Politics Paper 1 (26) 90min
Fri 19 Jun	Psychology Paper 2 (60) 90 min Computing Paper 1(15) 90 min		Music Tech (7) 75 min Law Paper 1 (19) 60 min
	Period 1 8:50 start	LUNCH	Period 4/5 (1:25 pm start)
Mon 22 Jun	Biology Paper 2 (61) 60 min RS Paper 2 (2) 90min D&T Graphics Paper 2 (8) 60 min		Business Studies Paper 2 (22) 90 min RS Paper 2 (19) 90min French Writing (9) 90 min
Tue 23 Jun	Chemistry Paper 2 (71) 60 min		Geography Paper 1 (20) 60 min Further Maths Paper 2 Pure Maths (20) 75 min
Wed 24 Jun	History Paper 2 (42) 45 min 10:10 START Economics Paper 2 (15) 60 min		Physics Paper 2 (32) 60 min English Lit (31) 75 min
Thurs 25 Jun	Maths Paper 2 Applied Maths(72) 75 min Further Maths Paper 3 Applied Maths(20) 75min		Music (10) 90 min Law Paper 2 (19) 60 min
Fri 26 Jun	Politics Paper 2 (26) 90min Computing Paper 2 (15) 90 min		Spanish Writing (7) 90 min Geography Paper 2 (20) 60 min

REVISED Version 18/5/20

Sports Day

On Wednesday 3rd June we were due to hold Sports Day. The PE department have decided that this year's Sports Day will still go ahead but it will be a virtual one instead and will run over the next few weeks to give as many of the pupils as possible the opportunity to join in with each of the events. If possible, they should be wearing their House t-shirt. Each year group will have their own google classroom (see the codes below) and each week a new challenge will be set. To participate, pupil's need to upload a video of them doing the challenge to their allocated classroom by the time and date set. Each entry will earn a minimum of 1 point for their House. Late entries will not be counted. There will also be additional points allocated for each challenge, for example the winning score and the first video submitted for each Year group.

Details of each week's challenge will be emailed to the students (and staff!)

Year 13 -evvstyj

Year 12 ogalbav

Year 11 -myv4jmr

Year 10 tfkhsfy

Year 9 kjf2cmk

Year 8 mway7vi

Year 7 7h4fz3n

When pupils upload their video, please ensure that they add their House in the title. The first challenge came out on Wednesday 3rd June and pupils will have until Tuesday 9th June at 3.30pm to complete it.

Virtual Live Lounge – Music Festival

At 7pm on Friday 5th June we are hoping to run Live Lounge via Facebook. This may include WHSGleeClub, instrumental performances and vocal ensembles.

WHSG Centenary Cake Competition



The food department invites you to take part in our virtual cake competition.

As you know this year WHSG celebrates its 100th birthday, therefore we would like to invite students from all year groups to celebrate by making the school a birthday cake.

Given the unique times we are currently experiencing this is going to be a unique cake competition! We would like you to upload a photo of your cake to a special Google classroom created just for the competition, the code to join is:

Lbwetik

Here you will also find the judging criteria.

The unique thing about this competition is that you can make your cake from anything at all. You can of course make an edible cake but we are also welcoming entries made from non-edible sources such as recycled items, craft materials, textiles, Lego or even a mud pie!

We are looking for cakes that are creative, that feature the number 100 and reference our school.

The deadline for entries will be Friday 3rd July.

Good luck!

Mental Health Resources for Children Returning to School

We have been recommended a number of resources that you may wish to refer to as children start to return to school:

https://www.england.nhs.uk/2020/06/top-nhs-doctor-issues-advice-for-children-going-back-to-school/?utm_source=feedburner&utm_medium=email&utm_campaign=Feed%3A+NHSCBoard+%28NHS+England%29

Keep safe.

Yours sincerely

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads 'Paul Hayman'.

Dr Paul Hayman
Headteacher