

WESTCLIFF HIGH SCHOOL FOR GIRLS

An Academy Grammar School
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15th May 2020

Dear Parents and Carers,

I hope you are making the most of our 'Stay Alert' freedoms and remain safe and well.



Pupils needing to be in school during Half Term

During half-term the school will be open to provide a safe space for the children of Key Workers where there is no one at home able to supervise them, or those who are vulnerable. If your child needs to use this facility, please email generalenquiries@whsg.info with details of the day(s) your child needs to be in.

Please remember that Monday May 25th is a Bank Holiday.

Requests should be submitted no later than Tuesday 19th May 2020.



Science



Engineering

Pupil Illness

We hope that any child falling ill will only be with a mild illness; when a pupil is ill, please can we remind parents that they must let the school know if this is going to affect their child's ability to carry out school work on that day. Please can parents email the relevant Learning Manager, who in turn will notify your child's teachers. This notification to staff should not be from the students.

Our expectation that work is caught up, once a child is better, has not changed.

Returning Completed Work

Teachers continue to work very hard to ensure that they maintain a high standard of education for our students. Please check that your child has completed the work and returned this to their teacher by the date set.

Phased Re-opening of Schools

We now know that there will not be a return to school for any pupils before June 1st, and even then this does not include most secondary pupils.

On Sunday the Prime Minister said:

"Our ambition is that secondary pupils facing exams next year will get at least some time with their teachers before the holidays."

Since Sunday we have received various updates. The Guidance to Schools states:

"We will also ask secondary schools, sixth form and further education colleges to offer some face-to-face support before the summer holidays to supplement the remote education of year 10 and year 12 students who are due to take key exams next year."

On Tuesday Guidance to Parents was issued, which states:

"From June 1, secondary schools, sixth form, and further education colleges to begin some face to face support with year 10 and 12 pupils, although we do not expect these pupils to return on a full-time basis at this stage"



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Reading between the lines suggests that Years 7, 8 & 9 may not return to school this term or, if they do, it will only be for a short time.

It is recommended that schools have a phased approach, limiting the numbers of pupils on site and gradually building this up over time.

ALL THE FOLLOWING IS PROVISIONAL AND CONTINGENT ON UP TO DATE RISK ASSESSMENTS THAT WILL NEED TO BE ADJUSTED BASED ON ANY FURTHER SCIENTIFIC GUIDANCE. PLEASE ALSO BE AWARE THAT IN THE CONTEXT OF LOCAL RISK ASSESSMENTS FOR EACH INDIVIDUAL SCHOOL, OFFERS WILL VARY BETWEEN SETTINGS BASED ON LOCAL CONDITIONS AND THAT THE PROVISION OFFERED IS UNLIKELY TO LOOK LIKE THE FULL TIME PROVISION THAT PARENTS AND PUPILS WERE USED TO PRIOR TO THE PANDEMIC.

Our initial thoughts are to have small groups of Year 12 pupils in between June 1st and June 12th for revision sessions prior to their examinations.

These sessions could be 2 hours long to support their learning, not delivering new work.

Year 12 would then be off for 2 weeks taking their school exams at home online.

Then, during the period June 15th – June 26th, to bring in groups of Year 10 pupils.

We will send out information about this program next week.

To allow this to happen, we have been thinking about how we can operate and maintain social distancing as part of ensuring everyone's safety.

We anticipate this will mean a one-way system in corridors and on staircases, 2m markings, staggered start times, teaching staff on rotas, reduced class sizes, increased cleaning, staff moving rooms rather than the pupils, lots of fresh air etc.

There are also issues about transport, canteen provision, reintegration and managing issues with wellbeing, to name but a few!

Our overriding priority will be our determination that no pupil or member of staff should be at increased risk for being at school.

Who should not be in school?

The guidance received says:

- children, young people and staff who have been classed as [clinically extremely vulnerable due to pre-existing medical conditions](#) have been advised to shield. We do not expect people in this category to be attending school or college, and they should continue to be supported to learn or work at home as much as possible. Clinically vulnerable (but not clinically extremely vulnerable) people are those considered to be at a higher risk of severe illness from coronavirus. Few if any children will fall into this category, but parents should follow medical advice if their child is in this category. Staff in this category should work from home where possible, and refer to the detail in our protective measures guidance
- a child/young person or a member of staff who lives with someone who is clinically vulnerable (but not clinically extremely vulnerable), including those who are pregnant, can attend their education or childcare setting
- if a child/young person or staff member lives in a household with someone who is extremely clinically vulnerable, as set out in the [guidance on shielding](#), it is advised they only attend an education or childcare setting if stringent social distancing can be adhered to and, in the case of children, if they are able to understand and follow those instructions. This may not be possible for very young children and older children without the capacity to adhere to the instructions on social distancing. If stringent social distancing cannot be adhered to, we do not expect those individuals to attend. They should be supported to learn or work at home
- staff and children or young people should not attend if they have symptoms or are self-isolating due to symptoms in their household

PPE

We have been advised by the DfE that face masks and face coverings are not recommended in the school setting.

However, these are being recommended for use on public transport or in shops where you can't social distance.

The information we have is that a face mask may help to prevent you from spreading Covid-19, but not from being exposed to it.

The World Health Organisation (WHO) states:

- If you are healthy, you only need to wear a mask if you are taking care of a person with COVID-19.
- Wear a mask if you are coughing or sneezing.
- Masks are effective only when used in combination with frequent hand-cleaning with alcohol-based hand rub or soap and water.
- If you wear a mask, then you must know how to use it and dispose of it properly.

Will your child be able to get to school?

We understand there will be no contract buses this term. This means alternative arrangements will need to be made for your child to attend school if this is the preferred means of transport.

We do not know what will happen with trains; social distancing suggests they can only operate at 10% capacity.

The Prime Minister has encouraged everyone to travel by car, bike or on foot. This is not going to be possible in all situations. Hopefully there will be more information about this prior to June 1st.

Will Your Child be in School?

To help us with our planning, could the parents of Year 12 students please let us know if your daughter/son **WILL or WILL NOT be coming into school after June 1st**. Please email generalenquiries@whsg.info so we are aware.

Year 12 Examinations Timetable

Year 12 will take their exams at home, remotely.

The examination timetable is:

	Period 1 (8:50 start)	LUNCH	Period 4/5 (1:25 pm start)
Mon 15 Jun	Biology Paper 1 (61) 60 min		Business Studies Paper 1 (22) 90 min
	D&T Graphics Paper 1 (8) 60 min		Drama (7) 70 min
			French: Reading, Listening and Translation (9) 90 min
Tue 16 Jun	Chemistry Paper 1 (71) 60min		Psychology Paper 1 (60) 90 min
	RS Paper 1 (21) 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 (13) 60 min
Thurs 18 Jun	Maths Paper 1 Pure Maths (72) 90min		Politics Paper 1 (26) 90min
	Further Maths Paper 1 Pure Maths (20) 75 min		
Fri 19 Jun	Psychology Paper 2 (60) 90 min		Music Tech (7) 75 min
	Computing Paper 1(15) 90 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		Business Studies Paper 2 (22) 90 min
	D&T Graphics Paper 2 (8) 60 min		French Writing (9) 90 min
Tue 23 Jun	Chemistry Paper 2 (71) 60 min		Geography Paper 1 (20) 60 min
	RS Paper 2 (21) 90min		Further Maths Paper 2 Pure Maths (20) 75 min
Wed 24 Jun	History Paper 2 (42) 45 min		Physics Paper 2 (32) 60 min
	10:10 START Economics Paper 2 (13) 60 min		English Lit (31) 75 min
Thurs 25 Jun	Maths Paper 2 Applied Maths(72) 75 min		Music (10) 90 min
	Further Maths Paper 3 Applied Maths(20) 75min		Law Paper 2 (19) 60 min
Fri 26 Jun	Politics Paper 2 (26) 90min		Spanish Writing (7) 90 min
	Computing Paper 2 (15) 90 min		Geography Paper 2 (20) 60 min

Students should begin each exam as close to the published start time as possible.

Maintaining Contact

Thank you for receiving the telephone calls we are making and for helping us to get feedback on how our pupils are coping during this absence from school. Your daughter/son may also be taking part in a Zoom Form Period.

May I thank the significant number of parents who have sent messages of support and gratitude for the work we are undertaking and the contact we are making. These have been greatly appreciated and passed on to our staff.

Learn Life Saving Skills During Lockdown

The British Red Cross are offering a First Aid Course through their First Aid Champions website. This will be promoted to pupils in a Zoom Form Time.

The URL for this is:

<https://firstaidchampions.redcross.org.uk/secondary/>

May you Stay Alert!

More importantly, stay safe.

With best wishes

Dr Paul Hayman
Headteacher