



Ringwood School

A National Teaching Academy

September 2020

Dear Parents / Carers,

Thank you for your continued support in getting all pupils back into school safely over the past two weeks. All of us are committed to providing the best education possible for your child, while securing the health and safety of our whole school community. Thank you for continuing to follow public health guidelines and encouraging your children to do the same.

You are already aware of the steps we have put in place to ensure the safe return of all pupils to school. These are under weekly review and I will contact you again in the light of any changes. We also know that you will be keen to understand the impact that we have had in our first two weeks of the term and what will happen to their education if a student is asked to stay at home over the coming months.

Here is a summary of our progress so far, I hope you find it helpful. This letter will also be published openly on our website and is being sent to our governors.

School re-opening	<p>We have been really pleased to welcome back all students on their full timetables, studying their full curriculum without restraints that will hinder their learning.</p> <p>Currently we are not offering extra-curricular opportunities but would hope to reintroduce these when we can, knowing how much students value these.</p>
Attendance	<p>National average in secondary school in normal times is 95%.</p> <p>Whole school average attendance - comparison between this time last academic year and this year:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • 2019/20 (02/09-14/09) – 98.17% • 2020/21 (03/09-14/09) – 97.32% <p>Figures are slightly down in every year group, however this is being skewed by a small group of students who were still quarantining at the beginning of term.</p> <p>We are really pleased that our students have returned to school and attendance has returned to normal levels for all students including students within our more vulnerable groups (for example, students with SEND currently have an average attendance of 99.05%).</p>
Coverage of the curriculum	<p>All students continue to access their full curriculum.</p> <p>A half-termly cycle of collaborative planning in each subject across the whole school and the creation of Mid-Term Plans ensure key concepts and reinforcement of prior learning are</p>

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	<p>taught and embedded.</p> <p>An increase of Formative Assessment and Responsive Teaching is used to identify misconceptions and gaps in knowledge (all students have been given a whiteboard to enable this to be more effective in lessons).</p> <p>Departmental assessment programmes exist as per school policy with summative assessments planned for Y11 and Y13 and their full mocks in December (Y11) and February (Y13). Core subjects also have exams for Yr11 in early Autumn and mid Spring term the same as every year.</p> <p>Progress checks will allow us to identify students at risk of falling behind. Department and subject analysis meetings will assess which students are or are at risk of falling behind and need to catch up. This will allow us to put a tailored plan in place for those that need it.</p>
<p>Remote learning March - July 2020</p>	<p>Microsoft Teams was used as the digital platform for setting work for all students (this was new to staff and students in March). This meant work could easily be set, accessed and feedback given. There was a combination of live lessons and work set in Teams Assignments.</p> <p>The methodology for remote teaching included offering varied resources and teaching with the use of Loom, Zoom recordings, Microsoft Teams and annotated PowerPoints.</p> <p>Online learning platforms and tools used were Seneca, This is Language, Quizlet, Memrise, Doodle and The Everlearner.</p> <p>For support, we created a remote learning page with access to all subjects' Mid-Term Plans; KS3 Curriculum Maps; Reading Lists and help videos.</p> <p>Regular feedback was given to students.</p> <p>For any lack of student engagement in their work, students and parents were contacted by the class teacher, Head of Year and pastoral support was offered if needed.</p> <p>Y9 were allowed to discontinue with their non-option subjects in the 2nd half of the summer term to concentrate on core and future option subjects.</p> <p>Bridging work was provided for y11 and y13 to prepare them for their next steps.</p> <p>Virtual induction days were run for y6 and y11.</p> <p>Teaching assistants offered one to one support for students who needed it.</p> <p>Teachers completed an 'Engagement Report' for all students which reported on their engagement during the period of remote learning.</p> <p>Students received:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • live tutor times with their Tutors • Recorded Head of Year messages • Recorded assemblies. <p>Three live and recorded Zoom sessions were run by the Leadership Team and Heads of Year for parents and students of Years 7, 8,9,10 and 12 to keep them up to date with remote learning and expectations for the return to school.</p>
<p>Remote learning in the future</p>	<p>A remote learning plan is in place for individual isolation for Covid-19; whole cohort isolation and in the event of full school closure again.</p> <p>The remote plan ensures that government guidance is followed so that:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Work will be set in each subject with daily teacher contact • The curriculum is planned and well sequenced

	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • New content will be explained with high quality resources and videos / live lessons • Work will be checked regularly and feedback given <p>All work will continue to be set via a combination of Microsoft Teams Assignments and Live Lessons.</p> <p>All classrooms have been equipped with a visualiser for teachers to be able to stream live lessons if appropriate.</p> <p>Mid- Term Plans are in place.</p> <p>Year 7 students are being trained in using Teams.</p> <p>All Home Learning is to be set via Teams from October half-term which will ensure student confidence and keep them up to date in using Teams.</p>
<p>Mental health and wellbeing</p>	<p>On their first day back at school, all students took part in an activity designed to give us an overall picture of what challenges our students faced during lockdown, what opportunities it had given them, what challenges they felt they were facing going forwards and the skills they would need to overcome them. The results of this activity (which was completed by every tutor group in the school, Year 7-13), will help inform our pastoral/tutor programme of activities at a year group and whole school level, to ensure we are addressing our students' concerns and providing them with the support they need, rather than assuming what they need.</p> <p>On a day-to-day basis students are supported by their tutor, who they see every day. Year groups have been zoned at break and lunchtime, but in areas where they still have space to play outdoors – they are welcome to bring their own footballs or basketballs (if they are based on the courts), and the table tennis tables we have around school site can still be used by students if they bring their own equipment; it has been great to see them playing on these again!</p> <p>We have maintained movement around the school and lessons in a variety of rooms to give students opportunity to take advantage of specialist rooms and to stretch their legs between learning sessions. To do this safely we have introduced a one way system and sanitising of hands and workspaces upon arrival at their next classroom.</p> <p>We also have provision available for students requiring more individualised support. Students can be referred for bespoke 1:1 or small group support from a member of our pastoral support team via their Head of Year. Our pastoral support team comprises of: two Emotional Literacy Support Assistants (ELSAs), a Behaviour Support Lead, a Pupil Premium Support Lead, an Inclusion Support Lead and a Student Support Mentor, so there is a range of support available. If you think your child requires this level of support, please get in touch with their Head of Year.</p>

Thank you for your support in these challenging times. Please remember to follow both the School's and Public Health guidance to keep everyone learning safely.

Yours sincerely,

Leanne Symonds
Headteacher