

Dear Parents

**Attachments:**

- *Go-To leaflet: information on this website which is another source of support for wellbeing, targeting young people and their families in North Yorkshire*
- *Photos: Pictures of some of the activities, work and highlights of this week*

Apologies for the boring letter format, rather than the more engaging photo format that I have used in recent weeks. In place of the usual newsletter I thought it was important to write to you today to update you on our latest plans around provision for our students during the school-closure period. This situation that we as a community are facing is complex and ever-changing, so forgive me for the lengthy letter – I just want to ensure that we keep you as well informed as possible. I have tried to separate the information into clearly labelled sections so that you can refer to the bits that most apply to you, but I do think it is worth reading all of this to be sure of the full picture.

**Provision for vulnerable students and children of Critical Workers**

This provision has been in place since the start of the closure and will continue throughout. As a school, we have a responsibility to encourage the attendance of 'eligible' children to attend school and this remains our expectation for them (unless there are very specific circumstances that mean it is safer for them to stay at home). **So...who is eligible for this provision?**

1. Vulnerable Children – as defined here: (Please contact Alison Knight if you have questions on this: [knigha@bedalehighschool.org.uk](mailto:knigha@bedalehighschool.org.uk))

- a) Your family is supported by Early Help or a Social Worker (this may involve a Child In Need plan)
- b) If your child has an EHCP and their needs can be as safely, or more safely met at school (this will involve a joint risk assessment from school and home if you wish to send your child in to school)
- c) If your child is a Young Carer
- d) If your child is at risk of becoming NEET ('not in employment, education or training'). We have identified these students from Years 9 and 10.
- e) You/school consider your child to be 'assessed as otherwise vulnerable'.

2. Children of Critical Workers or from Forces Families:

Please click on this link for information around what classifies as a 'Critical Worker':

<https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/coronavirus-covid-19-maintaining-educational-provision/guidance-for-schools-colleges-and-local-authorities-on-maintaining-educational-provision>

**Provision for Year 10 Students after half-term**

You may have seen that as well as primary schools re-opening for some years, the Government have asked for secondary schools to have some 'face to face time' with Year 10 students from June 1st. We have spent the last two weeks looking at potential models for what this might look like, and, first and foremost, trying to find a model that could allow us to do this safely for our Yr 10 students and staff. We now have a clear plan which I have outlined below.

**BUT, I must be completely open with you about this: all of the plans I am about to share with you remain, at the moment, an 'intention', rather than being set in stone. They will only go ahead on the timescale shown IF we can successfully complete the very thorough risk assessment for re-opening the school to more students, and IF we get sufficient guidance and support from appropriate authorities.** (There are still some things to be resolved around this last element as unions, DfE and Government continue to wrangle with each other over the what/how/when etc. If these things are not in place in time, our plans will need to change or be delayed accordingly so please remember this if you are considering planning/changing your own arrangements around any of this).

- W/C 1st June: Each Year 10 student will have an 'Academic Welfare Check-in' with a member of staff. This will be done either 'virtually' through using Microsoft Teams, or through a phone call. We encourage parents to be part of this conversation where possible. The purpose of this is to help inform us how they are feeling about coming back for some time in school, what areas they are most worried about and potentially give some useful information for us to consider in terms of what we should focus on around their learning, (whether remotely or in school). It is also an opportunity for us to brief them over what to expect for any

return to school, (as it will be a very different experience to their normal schooling). These check-ins will be carried out by the leadership team and a group of colleagues led by Claire Temple.

- The Year 10 students will be split into two main populations, with Population A coming into school for 3 mornings one week, then swapping with Population B who will come in for 3 mornings the following week. Our intention is to start this from 8<sup>th</sup> June (dependent on the aforementioned factors being in place).
- W/C 8th June: One half of Year 10 to come into school for 3 mornings (Tues, Weds and Thurs). They will be split into 5 groups and they will be taught Eng, Maths, Science and some PSHE, with groups likely to be fewer than 10 students.
- W/C 15th June: The other half of Year 10 come in for the same model as above.
- Parents and students will be informed which group they are in when they are contacted for the academic welfare check-in (w/c 1<sup>st</sup> June).
- We are continuing to develop our remote-learning provision based on the survey feedback and this will remain a core part of their provision each day, but especially on the days/weeks when they have no in-school provision.
- We are waiting to hear back from Passenger Transport regarding bus arrangements. This will be another key factor in determining whether the above model can run.
- Students will wear full uniform, but we understand there may be some issues where they have outgrown items. Please start to work on replacing these as necessary over the next couple of weeks where possible.

### Concerns

Thank you for the responses to our Yr 10 survey around whether you intend to send your child into school if this model does run to the plan outlined above. I completely understand the concerns and anxiety that a number of you have expressed. In fact, they are the same concerns I have when it comes to asking staff and students to come back into school. All I can say is that it will not happen unless we believe it is safe to do so. The risk assessment we are working through is very thorough, and it will be shared with the Local Authority and Governors before we sign it off. It will also be reviewed frequently during any wider opening and it is only one part of the guidance that we are using to ensure that school remains as safe as it can be. I can promise that we will do all that we can to maintain the social distancing protocols at all times, and these messages and our own systems will reinforce this message constantly. But I cannot guarantee that individual students will always adhere to them...these are teenagers and we are a school, not a prison. Ultimately, the decision over whether to take advantage of any in-school provision for Yr 10s remains yours, and will vary according to your individual circumstances. We have been told that parents will not be prosecuted for children not attending at this time. You may also find this guidance helpful to consider:

<https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/closure-of-educational-settings-information-for-parents-and-carers/closure-of-educational-settings-information-for-parents-and-carers>

Please do email me or Mr Gill direct with further queries around the potential re-opening and Yr 10 provision:

[gillm@bedalehighschool.org.uk](mailto:gillm@bedalehighschool.org.uk)

[kellyt@bedalehighschool.org.uk](mailto:kellyt@bedalehighschool.org.uk)

### Provision over Half-Term:

I am grateful to staff who are supporting school remaining open on Tues to Friday next week for vulnerable students and children of critical workers. Once again, they are giving up their holiday time and family time to help with this. We have confirmed the list of students we know to be attending.

### Thank You!

Finally, you may have seen the letter from Governors earlier this week, confirming my appointment as permanent Headteacher at BHS. On a personal note I am delighted with this outcome, and it is what I have hoped for since coming into the role a year ago. I would like to express my thanks to all of our families, students, supporters, staff and Governors...I have really enjoyed the experience so far and look forward to the future (hopefully something a little more normal in the months to come!). I have received some lovely, uplifting messages this week and I'm very grateful for these.

Have a lovely half-term week, I hope you are able to spend time with your families. Take care and please stay safe.

Tom Kelly