

J/DR/C/Lets/Jul20/MsM

17<sup>th</sup> July 2020

Dear Parents/Carers

I hope that this letter finds you and your family safe and well.

As you may be aware, the Government recently (2<sup>nd</sup> July 2020) published its expectations for the full opening of schools from September, as well as guidance for parents and carers. For your convenience, I have included links to both of these documents at the end of this letter.

We are closely adhering to this guidance in our planning and I am sure you will appreciate that this is an enormous job, given the implications for every aspect of school life.

I am able to provide you with some details of how we are organising the school for the return of every child in September. When we are in a position to do so, we will publish further details on the website and via our social media accounts. It would be incredibly helpful, if you haven't already done so, to follow the school on:

Facebook - **Hollingworth Academy**

Twitter page - **@HollingworthAc**

Year 7 specific Twitter page - **@Hollingworth025**

#### **Arrangements confirmed to date**

- Hollingworth will be open to all pupils from September 2020. In order to ensure that staff, who I have not been able to meet as a whole group since March, fully understand our new procedures, I am moving one of our training days from June 2021 to Thursday 3<sup>rd</sup> September 2020. This will not reduce the contact time for pupils, but give us a little more time to prepare for the considerable changes we are being asked to undertake in order to safeguard, care and educate our children. In keeping with many secondary schools, we are phasing their return in order to take the time to explain to children about the changes we have made, start to allay any anxieties they may have, and carefully transition them back into the routines and practice of learning in school.
- Year 7 pupils will start Hollingworth on Friday 4<sup>th</sup> September 2020, at 8.40am. This will also be their induction day.
- Year 10 and Year 11 pupils will return on Monday 7<sup>th</sup> September 2020, at 8.40am.
- Year 8 and Year 9 pupils will return on Tuesday 8<sup>th</sup> September 2020, at 8.40am.
- The Department for Education has stated in guidance that it would, 'encourage all schools to return to their normal uniform practices' and 'uniforms do not need to be cleaned any more often than usual, nor do they need to be cleaned using methods which are different from normal.' Given the current guidance, we will be operating the school as 'normal' with pupils in full uniform and staff in formal professional attire. We believe that this familiarity will help us transition back into the routines and expectations of learning in school and behaving as members of our community.
- Pupils will be in year group 'bubbles' which will rarely mix. Year groups will all be based in their own area of the school. For example, Year 7 pupils will be based in the English rooms. They will have a separate entrance to the school, and different breaks and lunchtimes.

- At Key Stage 3, pupils will be taught predominantly in tutor groups for all subjects. In order to keep people safe and not have busy corridors pupils will, in the main, stay in their tutor room and their subject teacher will go to them. Pupils in Key Stage 3 will follow a broad and balanced curriculum, although will not, for the time being, be able to access specialist rooms.
- Key Stage 4 pupils will be able to fully follow their GCSE courses. Where possible, they will stay in their year group area, for example for English and Maths, but will have access to specialist rooms where necessary. Pupils will be taught in their sets for core subjects and their option groups for foundation subjects.
- The school will start and finish broadly as normal. In order to keep children safe as they leave school we will dismiss pupils from the building a floor at a time at 2.40pm, 2.45pm and 2.50pm.
- We intend to offer the full range of school dinners as normal, although we will be moving to four sittings. We will not be able to provide purchased breakfasts before school or snacks at break.

Clearly, a lot of work has already been done to establish our plans for September and a considerable amount of work remains to be done. We will share further details with you over the summer as they become available. In addition, we do not intend to set homework for pupils over the summer holidays as there is likely to be significant variance in where they are in their learning and we want them to have a good break from school ready for a fresh start in September in what will be a highly positive, supportive but busy Autumn term.

As this is my final letter home at the end of what has been an extraordinary and challenging academic year, please can I take the time to extend my thanks:

- To the amazing staff at Hollingworth who have worked hard to provide home learning for our children and deal with the constantly changing advice and guidance from the Government.
- To the brilliant pupils at Hollingworth Academy: Whether you have been in 'open' school since March, or are in Year 10 and have attended 'phased' school or you haven't been able to attend school and have shown real resilience working from home. Well done. We can't wait to see you in September.
- To our parents: We know how challenging 'home-schooling' is. Particularly when home circumstances might be difficult or you are also working from home. Thank you for your support.

My very best wishes to you and your family in what will probably be an unusual but hopefully relaxing and enjoyable summer. We will update you with further information regarding our plans for September as they become available.

Yours faithfully



D Randle  
Headteacher

Government Links:

<https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/actions-for-schools-during-the-coronavirus-outbreak/guidance-for-full-opening-schools>

<https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/what-parents-and-carers-need-to-know-about-early-years-providers-schools-and-colleges-during-the-coronavirus-covid-19-outbreak/what-parents-and-carers-need-to-know-about-early-years-providers-schools-and-colleges-in-the-autumn-term>

**RESPECT**



**RESPONSIBILITY**



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