



24th June 2020

Re: Phase 5 Overview

Dear Parent/Carer,

I hope that you and your family remain well and are managing in the ever changing situations in which we find ourselves.

I am writing to update you on our plans for the last few weeks of term as we follow the changed guidance for schools and respond to our recent parent survey as well as try to ensure students complete the term in the best position possible.

We have already had a number of activities taking place in school. We now have over 40 students who fit the 'vulnerable' definition or are the children of key workers coming in to school regularly. Throughout the school closure period, Lealands has welcomed more of these pupils than any other Luton secondary school. These students are now grouped into 'bubbles' in line with government guidance.

In addition, we have welcomed our Year 10 students into school for a meeting with their tutor which was a really positive step for staff and students. Over half the year group are also coming in to work on coursework in a range of subjects over the next few weeks.

We have continued to enhance and develop online learning and we are soon going to be distributing over 80 Chromebooks (in addition to laptops already lent by the school) to our less advantaged Year 10 students and some others in other year groups. There have been some live lessons for Year 10 students and although some parents are keen for more of these, research is clear that they do not add value to learning over the other online methods being used. They are complex to manage and ensure that safeguarding is achieved (meaning that two staff members need to be in attendance). We are extending some live provision in tutor times and staff have the option to deliver live lessons where these are deemed to add significant value to the learning, but we have found that Loom presentations are one of the most effective and valuable ways for staff to deliver some of their lessons. These are not interactive as such, but do allow the teacher to be seen while presenting and to give clear explanations.

When we set out on this journey, we had a number of difficulties with staff having to manage their family life, caring for and teaching their own children and, in some cases, caring for parents/elderly relatives whilst teaching from home. This meant that there has been some inconsistency in what staff have been able to do. As we move into the final few weeks, staff children are generally now all in their own schools or back to childcare where possible. This has allowed us to enhance in-school and online provision. Students will be getting more feedback for their work as a result of this.

During the next three weeks the following additional provision will be in place and you will be receiving further details; including safety information and expectations, where this is relevant for your child:-

Tutor 1:1 appointments (15 minutes per student) in school to review work and wellbeing

Year 7 Tutor Groups - Wednesday 1st July - 8:30-3:30

Year 8 Tutor Groups - Tuesday 30th June – 8:30-3:30

Year 9 Tutor Groups - Monday 29th June – 8:30-3:30

The days may be subject to change for specific tutor groups, but having tried this with Year 10 it proved to be very successful and we would like to extend the offer to students in all year groups. Students' appointments will be made using the online parents evening system and distancing and safety precautions will be followed; including that each tutor will be in a room with an external door through which students enter and leave.

We would encourage you to take advantage of this as, although a limited experience in school, it will give students the opportunity to start to re-integrate into the physical building and build confidence about returning more fully in September.

Year 10 Core Subject Teaching in School 2nd-3rd July

All Year 10 students will be invited to a 3 hour session where they will have a science, maths and English lesson.

Sessions will run from 8:30 to 11:30 or 12:30 to 3:30 and students will be allocated in advance to a group of up to 11 students. They will have to remain with this group in the same room for the session and the teachers will come to them.

Unfortunately, it will not be possible to arrange for students to see their own teachers due to the restrictions, but they will get input from an English, maths and science specialist teacher from each department. These lessons will focus on the work that students have been doing and support them to better understand where needed.

Targeted students to be invited into school

Some of the students will be invited in to work online in school. These will be prioritised with Year 10 first and then other year groups according to where staff believe there is the greatest need for in-school support. Sessions may be shorter than a normal school day and there will be teacher support to get students on-track who may have been struggling and not engaging as well with work at home as they should have been. Unfortunately, due to numbers allowed in school, this will not meet the demand we anticipate there would be and so this will be arranged by invitation and targeted at those students who we believe have the greatest need.

Online teaching

Our aim over the next three weeks is to get as many students as possible to where they should be ready for September. There will be some enhancements to online learning and the approaches being used. We recognise that some parents are disappointed to be receiving demerits which had been switched off, although recorded for a period of time. These are being used to record where

work is not completed or not completed to an appropriate standard. I would like to apologise that there was no warning that these were going to be switched on again, but most parents want to know when their children are not completing work so that they can monitor, encourage and support this. We would completely support this pro-active approach from parents. Please do, though, let us know if there is a reason why your child is not able to complete the work set and we can adjust the system accordingly for individuals where necessary. STEP points are being issued extensively for all work completed with a range of rewards in place.

Live Tutor Periods

From 29th June each tutor will provide one live Google Meet tutor period each week. This will be at normal tutor time and will be used for checking in/out and hearing from all of the students in the tutor group. This is aimed to give students some structured social interaction with their teacher and tutor group whilst supporting their wellbeing and gradual re-integration into school more fully.

You will recognise that we are working very hard to try to do what we can safely and in the best interests of our students. In order to adhere to the guidance and the context of our school, we feel that these further developments will get most of our students to where they need to be at the end of term. We, as yet, have no guidance about September from the Government. We really hope that their aim is achieved and that all year groups will be back fully. However, we are making a range of contingency plans and will keep you informed when we know more.

With best wishes,



John Burridge
Headteacher