



12th May 2020

Re: phased re-opening of schools

Dear Parent/Carer,

You will be aware that the Prime Minister announced, on Sunday 10th May, that if the Government's 5 tests are met, schools will begin a phased re-opening from the 1st June. For Lealands, this will mean extending some on-site provision to Year 10 students whilst we anticipate other year groups will be expected to continue working at home for the foreseeable future until September.

Unfortunately, schools have not had prior information about how this is planned to happen and so I can not yet provide specific details of what Lealands plans to do. Some guidance was published for schools on the evening of Monday 11th May, but this also included a number of statements about further guidance to follow in the coming days and weeks.

Planning in this scenario is, therefore, extremely difficult. However, we will begin to work out how to implement the Government's intentions from 1st June and keep you informed.

Google Classroom and Remote Education

Currently, students are following their normal curriculum online through Google Classroom, where possible. Packs of work are being prepared and are available for all students who require this instead of working online. For students working online, work is submitted to teachers and this is checked. We are recording that work has been completed and rewarding students with STEP points. We are also recording where work is not of an acceptable standard or not being completed in line with expectations and have begun to follow that up sensitively. We are aware, that in some cases, this is because of very specific issues, but we will work with families to overcome any barriers to their children continuing education at home.

As most students are not likely to return to school until at least September, the online learning is the best way to avoid significant disruption and later failures in school. It is also in children's best interests to continue a learning routine as it simply will not be possible to catch up this much work in the future. Parents must make every effort to ensure that their children are completing school work appropriately and to the highest possible standard. Please do get in contact if you require any help or support with this.

Provision of Devices for Some Students

The Government has announced that devices will be provided for online learning for vulnerable pupils who do not have these and for disadvantaged Year 10 pupils who lack a device at home. We have submitted the numbers we believe require devices (Chromebooks) and the Government have told us to anticipate these arriving before the end of June. Hopefully, this will limit the number of students working with packs of work as this is not the most ideal way to continue long term.

Children of Critical Workers and Vulnerable Pupils

Since the closure of schools from the 23rd March, we have provided, in school, for the children of critical workers in lower year groups and vulnerable students. We have had an average of 15 students in school each day who are working in a socially distant manner using devices in school to complete their lessons online in the same way as students at home. We have also provided for these children during school holidays and on Bank Holidays. In addition, the school has been making in excess of 400 phone calls each week; some daily, to support our most vulnerable pupils and families as best we can at this difficult time. We will be extending our phone calls to other families in the coming weeks. In-school provision for critical workers' children and vulnerable pupils will continue for the foreseeable future.

Year 10 Phased Return

The Government's aim is that students in exam years should have some face-to-face time in school with their teachers from the 1st June, if possible. We very much look forward to welcoming some of our students back and to being able to support them face-to-face. For Lealands, this means that we will be planning how to accommodate our Year 10 students in school in a safe way which reduces risks to a minimum. Work will continue online for Year 10 until the end of the Summer term and their time in school will supplement this. This time is likely to be very part-time as we will need to keep groups separate and spaced, although the Government guidance acknowledges that full social distancing will not be possible and that passing in corridors poses minimal risk, for example. Our teachers will also need to continue setting and assessing online work, as well as some shielding at home, and so teacher time in school for face-to-face work with students will be limited.

Further Information for All Parents

Please find attached the Government's guidance on the re-opening of schools from the 1st June for parents. This will answer some of your questions. We will be planning over the next couple of weeks and will provide more specific details about how our school will accommodate Year 10 pupils in due course.

Year 11

Our staff have been working on Centre Assessed Grades which will be used to award GCSE results to this year's leavers. This is a complex process and staff are doing their very best to ensure that what they provide examination boards is as fair as possible. Schools are required to rank order students for each subject and give a nominal grade, but the examination board will adjust school grades based on a statistical model. Final details are yet to be published following a consultation by Ofqual. It is anticipated that students who are not happy with their grade will have an opportunity to sit the exam in the Autumn term with no risk to the original grade awarded. We are encouraging Year 11 students to begin preparations for their next stage of education as well as make sure they retain the knowledge they have gained in case they need to sit an examination in Autumn Term. Colleges have been asked to provide 'bridging work' and this will be passed to appropriate students when it becomes available. Our Careers Coordinator, Miss Griffiths, is available for any queries about moving to Year 12 or to support with any transition issues. Students can email Miss Griffiths for this support. For our Year 11 students, who have now effectively left the school, we hope to be able to offer them a celebration of their time at Lealands in the Autumn term. We also hope to be able to welcome them into school to collect their results in August.

Please do get in touch if you have any questions or concerns. You can email me directly during this time at head@lealands.luton.sch.uk if you have any general questions or concerns. We very much want to support you and your children as best we can at this difficult time and to continue to educate them as well and as safely as possible. Thank you for your understanding, patience and encouragement during this period. I really hope that you and your loved ones are safe and well, but recognise that we are all deeply affected by this ongoing tragedy.

With best wishes,

John Burrige
Headteacher

