

Carwarden House Community School

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small community **thinking big**

Monday 15th June 2020

Dear Parents / Carers,

I really hope you and your families continue to stay well and are keeping safe during these difficult times.

We are now in week 14 of school closure, an unprecedented measure to keep our community safe and prevent the spread of COVID-19. I certainly don't underestimate the stress and pressure this has meant for all our families. This has undoubtedly also been a very challenging time for your child too.

During this term we have continued to grow our emergency childcare provision and I'm incredibly proud that from next week 49 of our students will be attending school, even if it's only for a few days each week. This has been hugely beneficial for those students and families who have most needed this support.

Getting all children back to school is clearly really important and is obviously a growing priority for the Government to work out how this can be achieved safely. At Carwarden we recognise that attending school is not just essential to enable our students to continue to make progress with their learning but also critical to support their emotional wellbeing and mental health.

Proposed arrangements for September

Recovery Phase

As I said in the last ParentMail, we have been urgently planning how we can offer every student some time in school from September. Our proposals are based entirely on the latest Government guidance including specific advice on maintaining social distancing, reducing class sizes and implementing rigorous

protective measures. All staff have been consulted and contributed to our plans.

We propose that from September 7th every student will attend school two days a week (either Monday & Tuesday OR Wednesday & Thursday). Each Tutor group will be divided into two smaller groups or 'bubbles' with a maximum of 6 students in each. This is the maximum number of students we can accommodate in each classroom to maintain the 2 metre social distancing requirement.

Each bubble will work together with a teacher and a teaching assistant in their own classroom for the two days they are in (or work outside if that's possible). Any contact between bubbles will be minimised with the aim of no individual from a bubble mixing or interacting with people with another bubble. The teacher supporting a bubble will teach all subjects to that group and learning resources will not be shared between groups. Each student will be provided with all the stationary and equipment they need individually. The school environment will be reorganised to enable groups to remain separate at all times and schedules agreed to enable 'socially distanced' & staggered break times. All rooms will be accessed via their external doors only and most internal corridors closed. Normal 'shared' spaces such as the hall, library, swimming pool and 6th Form Diner will not be used (lunches will be eaten in the bubble classrooms). We are urgently looking at providing increased provision for hand-washing and possibly, more toilets.

Our current and rigorous COVID-19 protective measures will continue to be implemented (including health checks on arrival and cleaning routines) and continually revised in the light of any updated guidance.

If the Government requirement on social distancing changes from 2 metres to 1 metre then it may be possible to have all students in school for four days a week but we still need to measure all classroom spaces before confirming this. However, if this were possible we would still implement the 'bubble' approach, just with a maximum of 11 students (a whole Tutor Group) working in isolation from others.

As staff will be supporting their 'bubbles' for the whole day on every day students are in, we need to provide them with statutory time for planning, preparation and assessment. To facilitate this we propose that no student attends on Fridays. We will also need to continue to provide home-learning for the days your child is not in school so staff need time to plan and deliver this.

Recovery Curriculum

We intend to move from a single home-learning offer to a more integrated approach with a reduced curriculum being delivered in school and then 'embedded' through work at home.

We recognise the importance of providing an emphasis on and significant time dedicated to the support for emotional wellbeing and positive mental health that students will inevitably require as a result of the pandemic. This aspect will form part of every day students are in school.

We will focus on core subjects and learning 'new concepts' when students are in school but are looking to provide an engaging, broad & balanced curriculum with the normal wider range of subjects but these not necessarily being taught every week. Opportunities for students to exercise together every day will form part of our programme.

We have posted more information for parents on the 'Recovery Curriculum' on our website.

As we will have face-to-face contact with every student at least two days a week we will discontinue Zoom Tutor Times but intend to increase the number of timetabled Zoom subject specific lessons on days your child is not in school.

If your child normally has additional 1:1 support in class we will make every effort to provide this wherever feasible but please recognise this will not always be possible given the current circumstances.

To repeat, I want to assure you that our absolute priority remains protecting the health and wellbeing of everyone in the Carwarden community whilst also urgently considering how we continue to meet the specific needs of your child. Scientific evidence appears to indicate that the risk of children becoming seriously ill with coronavirus is relatively low. However, we have some students who are significantly more vulnerable and obviously we also need to consider the risk of our students spreading the disease to members of their family. We also have a moral and legal responsibility to ensure the safety of all staff working in the school.

Remember, if you or your child is struggling in any way or you have any questions about the information in this letter then please ring me anytime on **07377 019855** or email direct on tim.stokes@carwarden.surrey.sch.uk

Stay safe, stay positive and stay at home as much as possible,

Tim