

Dear Parent/Carer

There has been much talk in the media about schools this week, so, little different from normal. This week the 'big news' is that all students will be back full-time in September. Whilst welcoming this news, I would add a degree of caution as there has been no guidance or detail to accompany the announcement and we need to understand how the Government sees this operating alongside social distancing expectations. I would hope that we can see all of our students, both those returning and those coming to us for the first time, and will keep you informed about our arrangements at the earliest opportunity.

Parents' Feedback – Year 7 to 9 students

This term we have taken on board parents' comments in shaping the curriculum and have provided a schedule of live video lessons and our expectations for each subject. We would like to ask you, again, for your feedback in order to seek your views on how effective those developments have been. It would be helpful if you could complete our short survey by 4pm on Monday.

The link to the survey:

https://forms.office.com/Pages/ResponsePage.aspx?id=4I_ewOP1L06Lz_HFSzjyi4fBAmSXtrpPggVsYKVt_2VUQ1M0UUtYQ0U3Vlc5SFBXREsySTVZTVINNC4u

Feedback from teachers suggest that attendance at live lessons has been typically around the 60 to 65% mark. Feedback from students points to the effectiveness of these lessons, so please support and encourage your son to make every effort to attend these as we expect them to take part. Please also remind them that we expect the same standards of behaviour in the live lessons as if they were in the classroom. A help guide on getting started was shared last week and is included with this message too.

Today I am also pleased to be able to tell you that the DfE now permits us to invite students in other year groups into school for a brief visit if the school has the capacity to do so. We think it would be of great value to our students in Years 7,8 and 9 to be able to meet up with their tutor and the other students in the tutor group in a socially distanced way as well as enjoy another activity and a breaktime together. Every student in these three year groups will be invited in on one particular day during the last week of term, for around 2 and a half hours. More details will follow shortly.

Year 10 and Year 12 Students

We have now completed two weeks of partial reopening for Year 10 and 12 students and it has been great to see so many of them back in school. Our student engagement logs continue to tell us that these older year groups are mostly working hard at home and we have been in close touch with parents where students seem to be having more trouble maintaining their motivation levels as the weeks pass. For the Year 10 students they have two more weeks of this as they will not be in school for the last week of term, but work will continue to be set. The Year 12 students should continue to attend until the final Thursday of the term, as per their schedule.

Year 11 Students

We hope that Year 11 students took advantage of the Virtual Sixth Form Subject Briefings which were available all this week. 5-10-minute video introductions in all subjects are still available on

the Sleaford Joint Sixth Form website. For anyone who has questions regarding the courses or who needs guidance with their transition work, details of how to contact the appropriate teachers are included at the end of these videos. We will be contacting you later in the term with details for GCSE results day, 20 August.

Year 11 and 13 students – textbooks and locker keys

As a consequence of school closure, our normal procedures for the return of textbooks and locker keys cannot be followed. Between now and the end of term (Friday 17 July) please could books and locker keys be returned to the reception area at school. Books should be in a bag with the student's name clearly marked and similarly locker keys in a named envelope. There will be 'drop-off' facilities in reception for both textbooks and locker keys to ensure social distancing and hygiene requirements are maintained. Many thanks in anticipation for your cooperation with this.

All Years

Teachers are increasingly using Microsoft Teams to deliver lessons and provide feedback to students and I would encourage your son to become familiar with it if he hasn't already. Please feel free to use [this written guide here](#) and/ or a YouTube [video guide by a teacher here](#) if you would like to know more yourself.

Another reminder that all students of schools in the Robert Carre Trust are entitled to a free copy of Microsoft Office 365 which includes Word, Excel and PowerPoint. During their time at the school, students can install Microsoft Office 365 applications on their PC, Mac, Smartphone or Tablet. For further information please head to <https://www.carres.uk/site/page.asp?ID=271>.

Key Worker provision

All places must now be booked ahead each week. As the school is now open for students in Years 10 and 12 we must now ask parents to book a place for their child each week in advance if they wish to take up the offer of key worker or vulnerable student provision. This applies to parents of students in any year group and whether they plan to attend all week or only on specific days. If you would like to request a place for your son for the week beginning 29 June booking is required via enquiries@carres.uk so that we can ensure the correct levels of staff supervision and socially distanced classroom space are in advance.

Please note that there will be no keyworker provision available to any student on Friday 17 July, the last day of term, which we are using for whole staff training and engagement.

Please also be aware that if your son attends the key worker supervision and plans to take part in any of the live lessons he will need to bring a wi-fi or 4G enabled personal mobile device and headphones with which to access the lessons. Whilst we have IT provision, access to it will increasingly depend on numbers of key worker children and your son will not have access to webcam or microphone enabled school devices.

Visitors on site

A polite reminder that we are trying to minimise the number of visitors on site and we would respectively request that parents do not drive onto site to deliver or collect their sons.

Yours faithfully

N M Law

Headteacher