

Dear Parent/Carer

In just over a week's time we shall partially reopen to our Year 10 and Year 12 students. We are looking forward to seeing them and hopefully they are eager to return and experience some 'normality', or, at least, what it could look like. It is a shame that we are unlikely to see Year 7-9 students back in school this academic year, but this letter provides updates for parents with children in all year groups and whilst we realise that some sections of this will be more relevant to you than others, we also thought you might like to hear about what is happening across the school community.

Year 10 and Year 12 students

From Monday 15 June we are permitted to reopen for up to 25% of Year 10 and 25% of Year 12 students at any one time. In the next few days your son or daughter will receive a letter which provides all the practical information they need regarding the arrangements for the days they are invited in and the timetable they will follow.

The sessions we are inviting students in for are not in place of the important work they are doing at home but are planned so that students can check their understanding of the learning they have been doing since March, and take advantage of some face to face lessons with teachers that will focus on the more complex aspects of the syllabus and so help students continue with their independent work.

We know that many students will be keen to get back to school, whilst some might feel a little anxious about their safety as the Covid-19 pandemic continues. We have plans in place to keep students and staff safe and to ensure we maintain social distancing. We expect students to attend these sessions, even if they feel they are working well at home. However, we do realise that a small number of students will be extremely clinically vulnerable or be shielding someone who is. If your child will not be attending school for these sessions please do ensure you let us know in advance by informing us through enquiries@carres.uk

The only food provided will be packed lunches for students who qualify for Free School Meals so please ensure your son or daughter brings with them all they need to eat and drink during the day. Students will not be able to leave the school site unless they are going home. It is important that Year 10 and 12 students understand they will not be allowed to go to Tesco's or Sainsbury's before, during or at the end of the school day. Tesco's has requested this because it will cause major problems for shoppers if students are not following social distancing guidelines. The same rule applies for other shops in the town.

A sheet of student expectations will be included in our posted letter but you do need to be aware of the following documents available via our website:

- [RCT Behaviour Policy - Covid 19 annex](#)
- [RCT School Reopening Risk Assessment](#)

For parents whose children have lessons at St George's Academy please make yourselves familiar with SGA expectations and follow them carefully. You will find the link to their 'Charter for students and parents' on their website. Together these lay out the health and safety plans that are in place to keep the whole school community as safe as possible.

Year 10

In summary each Year 10 student will attend 12 lessons with their subject teachers over 2 consecutive days. This rota will be repeated one further time so every Year 10 student will have access to four days of teaching before the summer holidays. There will be no more than 27 Year 10 students in the building on any one day, with typical classes having around 9 students. Every space to be used has been set up to ensure 2 metre social distancing.

Year 10 students are expected to wear summer uniform. This means that blazers and ties can be left at home, but students should be wearing school shirt and trousers and school shoes should be worn.

Year 12

Year 12 students will be in school for whole days per subject across the 5 weeks to the end of term. This means most students will have a total of 6 days in school across the 5 weeks.

Year 12 students will study one subject all day at the school where they are normally taught and will stay at that site for the whole day. This will enable them to stay within a 'bubble' and so minimise interactions with other students to help control virus transmission. For subjects taught across two sites students will either be just on one site with both teachers, or on different sites on different days. Again, specific details, personalised for your child, have been posted to you.

The normal dress code for Sixth Form students will be slightly different. We still expect them to be smart but ties and jackets will not need to be worn. Girls must ensure that they do not wear strappy tops and shoulders must be covered. Shorts or jeans will not be allowed for any students.

Year 10 and 12

Students may bring a mobile phone and a power pack if they have one as they will not be able to charge their phone in school. As they will not be able to share paper-based resources, they will need to share work digitally in lessons. Similarly, a charged tablet or a laptop may be of use but be aware that the school cannot accept responsibility for personal items.

The day will be structured like this:

Year 10		Year 12	
Lesson 1	8.45-9.35	Lesson 1	8.50-9.40
Lesson 2	9.45-10.35	Lesson 2	9.50-10.40
Break	10.35-11.10	Break	10.40-11.15
Lesson 3	11.10-12.00	Lesson 3	11.15-12.05
Lesson 4	12.10-1.00	Lesson 4	12.15-1.05
Break	1.00-1.35	Break	1.05-1.40
Lesson 5	1.35-2.25	Lesson 5	1.40-2.30
Lesson 6	2.35-3.20	Lesson 6	2.40-3.25
End of Day	3.20	End of Day	3.25

Years 7-9

Many thanks to all parents who took the time to complete our recent Key Stage 3 parents' survey. We wanted to understand whether our planned next steps for Key Stage 3 learning were in line with parental attitudes and to compare that data with what students were telling us in their surveys and what staff were reporting about student engagement in the work. When school closures were first announced we had little idea of how long students in different year groups would be out of the classroom. Thank you for both your kind and appreciative feedback but also your constructive comments on what could be done to improve your son's experience further. We received 200 responses across Years 7-9 and some helpful themes emerged:

- We asked you whether you felt that the amount of work being set was right. 64% of you said it was about right, 22% said too much and 14% said not enough. Students should find an adjustment to work set this term with clearer guidance on standard expectations and extension activities.
- Many of you said that you thought the consolidation and catch up week at the end of last half term was a good idea with a mixture of extension and enrichment tasks as well as time to fill in any gaps.
- Many of you said that you have equipped your son with a device for lockdown work and that your son had found it increasingly easy to locate and submit work via the school network.
- A notable proportion of parents would welcome more interaction between staff and students via more Microsoft Team video lessons. As Year 10 and 12 students, who have benefitted more from this form of teaching so far return to the classroom, we will be pleased to provide parents and students with a schedule of Teams lessons across subjects for 15 June onwards for each of Years 7-9. That schedule will be published to parents next Friday. Teams is also a good platform for setting assignments and submitting work and all staff have received training on this aspect this week. If your child would like some help in understanding how Teams works, he and you can access a guide attached to this email or watch clips online such as <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=SemjM2fHV2Q>. If your son is having technical difficulties you or he can contact icthelp@robertcarretrust.uk

- In the coming weeks we will provide some feedback to you on your child's engagement in remote learning tasks and teachers will be providing us with a further update before the summer break. This information will be used to plan some identified summer support for students who have a little more still to do to ensure they are making the necessary progress and meeting their identified potential prior to the start of next academic year.

Key Worker Provision

Next week provision for key workers children in any year group is at Carre's Grammar School and it will be at Carre's every week now and until the end of term. Please note that there will be changes to this provision from 15 June:

- Students are to report directly to the LRC as this minimises contact with returning students in Years 10 and 12.
- Each student will be allocated a workstation that they should use each time they attend.
- The dress code is school shirt, school trousers and shoes **NOT** casual clothes.
- Students will need to bring own food and drink as The Chill will not be operating as usual.
- Movement around the school site will be restricted.

Please continue to book a place through enquiries@carres.uk