



Letter to Year 12 Parents - 05.06.20

Dear Students, Parents and Carers,

I hope that this latest communication finds you and yours safe and well. I am writing to share our plans following the most recent government guidance for Post-16 providers. What is important to state from the outset is that this is based on the current situation at the time of writing; the government has been very clear that the situation could change and we will of course let you know as soon as possible should this be the case.

The government has asked that Post-16 providers try to provide more students with the opportunity for face to face interaction with their teachers and we have been thinking very carefully about the safest and best way in which we can begin to do this at Holyrood Sixth Form. Whilst I have been truly impressed with the way in which students have engaged with our online learning and the subsequent progress they have made in the last three months, we know that this cannot fully replace the benefits of normal personable learning. Understandably, there are concerns around the impact of social isolation on the long term wellbeing of young people. We also know from the feedback from our students, that many of them are reporting finding things hard as a result of the lack of interaction with others outside of their home and are in some cases struggling to motivate themselves with their studies.

From the 15th June we will therefore be asking all Year 12 students to attend a thirty minute academic tutorial for each of their subjects. The focus of these tutorials will be to discuss student progress in each subject since the Sixth Form closure, to provide an opportunity to consolidate learning and help students to plan their time wisely for the forthcoming weeks. A further personalised letter will be sent to you early next week which states the exact timings each student will be invited into the Sixth Form for. It is our full intention that the students will have at least a second academic mentoring session during the w/c 6th July if the guidance does not change further.

We appreciate for students who rely on public transport and/or are unable to attend in person due to shielding may prefer to have these academic tutorials online. This will be arranged if necessary, but where possible I do encourage that students are on site for these academic tutorials.

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A lot of time has been invested to ensure that all guidance is adhered to and that the students will only be in contact with their relevant teachers. To ensure staff and student safety, the students will only be on site for their appointments, which are scheduled to be back-to-back, with no social time. Our Sixth Form café will be shut and only the Sixth Form toilets will be open for students to use one at a time if necessary. Could I please ask that students bring in a bottle of water if they would like a drink, as our water dispenser in the Sixth Form block will be off to avoid any cross contamination. Finally, all students will need to sign in and out of the main academy reception, therefore it is important that they have their Sixth Form ID cards with them at all times.

Every room being used for the academic tutorials has been modified with social distancing in mind. Hand sanitising units, cleaning sprays/cloths, sealed bins and tissues are provided in every room used by students. At the end of each day, every room used will be deep cleaned and if a case of COVID-19 is suspected, the relevant academic tutorials will be moved to a different room and/or postponed.

I am aware of the very understandable anxieties that will be felt by parents/guardians and students around the proposed phased reopening of the Sixth Form and am hugely appreciative of your ongoing support and understanding at this difficult time. I will provide some more detailed guidance in next week's letter outlining on site rules and safety, so students are reassured and know exactly what is expected of them.

I am happy to discuss plans and issues with parents via telephone or email but would politely ask that parents do not come to the school unless absolutely necessary, again to ensure that everyone in our community remains safe.

Yours faithfully,

Mrs F Challis
Head of Sixth Form