



Winterton Community Academy

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Headteacher – Mr K Rowlands

Ref:O/KRParLet/

5th June 2020

Dear Parents / Carers,

I hope you are well and that your friends and family also remain safe.

I am writing just to keep in touch and give you a brief update of the circumstances as they stand.

You may already be aware that on Wednesday 17th June, it is our intention to welcome Year 10 pupils back into school in line with the guidelines and advice of the government. At this time, this provision is only for Year 10 pupils and we do not yet have an indication as to when we might be in a safe position to extend this for other year groups.

This provision remains at the discretion of parents and there will not be a consequence for anyone who chooses not to allow their child to return at this time.

We have throughout this period remained open for a small number of pupils on a daily basis and this remains the case and we will continue to offer them a range of learning opportunities to support them during their time in school.

As things have developed, we are working in partnership with Winterton Junior School to allow them exclusive access to the top floor of our school for their Year 6 children. This allows them to put safe provision in place and ensure social distancing expectations are met.

Meanwhile, as the weeks have passed, we have continued to reflect and develop the provision in place for all other children to engage in some home learning. We appreciate how difficult this situation can be and we therefore have taken an approach which is flexible and encourages our students and their families to do what they can.

We have introduced the weekly learning diary, to help keep us informed and aware of how our students are doing and where possible we are trying to contact as many of our students as we can through both emails or on the telephone.

We have in the last few weeks introduced a range of zoom lessons and will continue to develop this area of provision. I understand it is not a substitute for actually being in school, but I know from the feedback of many students, they have enjoyed the opportunity to engage with their teacher and also see some of their friends online.

For our Year 11 pupils, we have been working exceptionally hard behind the scenes, evaluating and moderating their GCSE's grade. This has not been an easy process but I am very happy with the approach that we have taken which we feel has been rigorous and fair. We have been in contact with our Year 11's in relation to their 'Leavers Hoodies' and we have assured them, that when the time is right, we will celebrate their time in the school in the right and appropriate way.

We are now also reaching out to our new Year 7 cohort, where I am delighted to announce

that we currently have 114 new arrivals in September.

We are looking at the opportunity for some kind of transitional activities, in line with what is possible and appropriate. Certainly, it is a strange situation and we want to help support their transition from Primary to Secondary.

For everyone else, it continues to be 'as you were'. We encourage our pupils to do what they can from home, to engage with their teachers on email, access resources online and to join in with the zoom lessons where appropriate. In addition, they can choose lots of activities with learning value at home, and no learning is wasted. If anyone does need hard copies of work, then please contact us and we will support this request.

The situation remains uncertain, however we are monitoring the guidance on a daily basis and reflecting on how we can best support our pupils throughout this period. If there is anything more that we can do to support you however, please do let us know.

Kind regards,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to be 'Mr Rowlands', with a long horizontal line extending to the right.

Mr Rowlands
Headteacher