



Dear Parents & Carers,

The Prime Minister has said that he hopes that our year 10 and 12 students will receive some face to face contact with staff from 1<sup>st</sup> June 2020. This, I know, will be welcome news for families in our school community. This period of lockdown has been challenging and stressful but now we are finally seeing some light ahead. As welcome as this is, it is vital that our school proceeds very carefully and seek to put the health and safety of our learners and staff first. In turn this will enable us to do our best to try to ensure families are safe.

To achieve as safe an environment as possible, you will understand that schools cannot operate as they did before lockdown. Hopefully, schools can emerge incrementally and over time return to the structures and routines with which we are all familiar, but we cannot know when this might finally be accomplished, and safety must continue to be our first and paramount consideration. I know parents and carers will appreciate this position. We wish to thank all of you for your continuing support and understanding.

Our second objective is to ensure we provide the highest standard of education possible, being one that will help our learners make the greatest progress with a view to ensuring that none is disadvantaged by circumstances outside their control. We have spent a considerable amount of time analysing, considering and planning what and how learners will experience when they return to school. For most learners this will likely be a blend of school-based teaching and home-based learning. This is a new way of working for everyone and we will all need to adapt swiftly to maximise the prospects and opportunities for our learners.

This letter gives details of how we currently intend to provide contact for our year 10 and 12 students. **Please read the details carefully.** You may have further questions. Please visit our school **website** and go to the 'School reopening' page where you may find any concerns or issues addressed in the Frequently Asked Questions (**FAQ**) section. You will be able to post any questions through this facility. Please be aware that given the speed with which these plans have had to be formulated, and how dynamic the current situation is, we may not have complete answers to every question at this stage, but we shall do our very best to help.

## Keeping Safe

The trust requires schools to follow **procedures that ensures all are safe in every school environment** at all times during Phase One (1<sup>st</sup> June – 28<sup>th</sup> June 2020). As you will be aware this is an area of contention with schools caught up in the centre of a debate over scientific evidence of what is safe. This is a very challenging area for everyone, but especially so for families and staff. To maintain any level of effective separation, the number of learners in each classroom must be limited. In most cases this will mean about 10 learners depending on the size of the classroom and the number of pupils attending. Full classes will not presently be possible for most year groups and subjects. This will have a significant impact on how our school will be able to deliver learning to every learner.

Initially, we intend to deliver a one to one meeting for all of our Y10 and Y12 students to review their wellbeing and speak to them about their studies. This will last for about 10-15 minutes only and students will be invited in for these meetings. All meetings will be socially distanced with tables and chairs being swapped regularly. We will use large spaces such as the Lakeside Hall to **ensure minimal social contact**. Each door, chair and handle will be given a deep clean before learners arrive for their meetings and after they have left. Upon entering school every students will be required to wash their hands and use hand gel to reduce any possible transmission of the Covid-19 virus.

After the initial meeting, further meetings with individual teachers will take place in order to focus on students' academic studies. This will take place from the week commencing June 8<sup>th</sup> but, as always, this is under constant review as per to the latest government advice.

### **In summary (subject to change):**

Week commencing 1<sup>st</sup> June -Years 10 and 12 come to school for an initial 10-15 minute meeting with an academic tutor (a member of our year 10 or 12 teaching teams). These will be on an invitation basis to ensure social distancing.

Week commencing 8<sup>th</sup> June -Years 10 and 12 come to school for a 10-15 minute meeting with subject teachers. These will be on an invitation basis.

Students will be contacted separately regarding the time and date of their meetings.

**Learners may wish to wear a face mask or a similar face covering but, if they do, their families will need to provide this.** We will not require our learners to follow the school's uniform policy. **We ask learners to wear a top that is easily washable**, e.g. a T-shirt/Polo shirt. The government recommends that where there has been social contact with others, the person should wash their clothes and they should shower or take a bath. We ask everyone to support this guidance to keep everyone as safe as we possibly can.

If your child is **feeling unwell**, please **DO NOT SEND THEM TO THEIR MEETING**. We appreciate this can be a difficult assessment to make but, for the time being, we need, and we ask you, to act with caution and, if in doubt, please keep them away from school for the sake of the safety of their fellow learners and the staff. If any learner begins to present with symptoms that indicate they are unwell they will be sent to the school's medical centre and parents/carers will be asked to collect them immediately.

**Toilet facilities will be open** and regularly cleaned during the school day. Once again, we will permit learners to use the facilities in small numbers to preserve social distancing, avoid accidental contact and keep everyone as safe as possible. Because students will only be in the building for 10-15 minutes, it is unlikely that these will need to be used.

Getting to and from school is a critical area of concern for schools as the risk of social distancing rules being forgotten or ignored is greatly enhanced. Where a learner walks to school we ask parents/carers to issue clear guidance.

### **What will learning look like?**

In simple terms our teachers will deliver the knowledge and understanding of the topics being studied through the platforms we are currently using. Please refer to my previous letters and the website to see how this will operate.

### **Key Workers & Vulnerable Students**

We will continue to support the provision of learning facilities for vulnerable learners and those learners who have parents/carers who are designated key workers. This will continue in exactly the same way.

### **Attendance & Behaviour**

**Attendance** at school for the meeting for years 10 and 12 **is expected** unless a learner is unwell or cannot get to school. We want to support our students and fully understand that this period is a stressful one for them. We appreciate that for some learners attending school may present health risks to them or their immediate families and so want to work with you.

Our new way of working will be demanding for learners and staff alike. It is important that everyone follows our trust's expectations:

### **Work Hard; Be Kind**

We ask that every learner act and behave in a socially responsible manner and respects the guidance our school has set out governing conduct and behaviour. We will contact parents/carers if we have concerns regarding any child's behaviour.

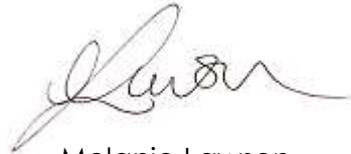
It is plain that what has been described in this letter does not conform to 'normal' schooling as we have all known it in the past. Nevertheless, we will do our very best to support your child's learning and ensure they receive the very best education possible. Kirk Hallam Academy, as always, relies upon your active support during this difficult and challenging period.

If you have any concerns or questions, please contact the school through our website or by phone/email.

Yours sincerely

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'D. Belshaw', with a stylized flourish at the end.

Damian Belshaw  
Head of School

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Melanie Lawson', with a long, sweeping flourish extending to the right.

Melanie Lawson  
Chair, Local Governing Body