



May 18<sup>th</sup> 2020

Dear Parents and Carers,

Last week I wrote to you regarding the Government decision to ask secondary schools to work towards the possibility of providing some face to face support for year 10 and 12 students in order to support their learning in preparation for examinations next year. The expectation at this stage is that we will develop a model that requires strict social distancing. We are expecting further information from the Government regarding how this should be managed. As soon as we have received further clarification and have considered how best to move forwards with this additional support for students, I will update you.

At this stage, given the lack of further guidance so far, it is highly unlikely that we will be in a position to offer face to face support to Years 10 and 12 in the first week after Half Term. Suffice it to say, the top priority in any consideration around reopening is the safety of our whole Colmers community, students, families and staff, and we cannot extend our face-to-face provision until we can confirm that our plans meet all of the requirements to do so safely. Once the guidance is clearer, we will be able to plan a high quality face to face offer that gives students maximum support while they continue to do the majority of their studying from home.

It is clear at this stage that students in years 7, 8 and 9 will not be returning into school before September. We will be continuing our Colmers Virtual School offer for all students to study at home and we are looking at how we can further support students' learning at home, especially for those with limited access to internet or devices.

I do not think that I am alone in wanting a return to normality, but this seems a long way off at present. We will continue to adapt to the changing circumstances but our priority will always be to ensure the well-being of our students while ensuring that they receive maximum support from their teachers to enable them to progress in their learning. Thank you for your continued support and for all you are doing to help your children navigate these challenging times.

With very best wishes to you and yours,

Emma Leaman  
Headteacher