

Date: 22 May 2020

Dear Parents and Carers,

We do hope that you and your family are well at this difficult time for us all.

We are writing to you as Executive Principal and Principal of Thomas Clarkson Academy to keep you informed of our commitment to educate your child in as safe an environment as possible and to advise you of our current proposals for the summer term. As you may be aware, the Government announced very specific plans for the return to school of some primary aged children. However, their announcement for secondary aged children was 'we expect that secondary schools will be able to offer some face to face contact with year 10 and year 12 pupils. This will not be a return to full timetables or pupils back in school full time, rather some support to supplement pupils' remote education.' There was no information regarding other year groups. The Government further announced that they will make the final decision on whether to press ahead with the reopening of schools when they review the latest science on May 28th.

We would like to reassure you and your son/daughter that we are working on plans which are more ambitious than this, for all year groups. As you would expect, the safety of our children, their families and our staff is our first priority. Therefore, we have been working diligently to consider how best to do this and we are in the process, as a Trust, of carrying out extensive risk assessments. Once these have been concluded, and the Government have made the 28th May announcement, the Principal will write to you again with much more detailed information. We know you understand that our planning may change in light of the Government announcement.

Our current plans include:

Years 7-9

A refreshed and fully mapped curriculum offer which involves some teacher interaction with students via Microsoft Teams and the use of online learning resources. Students will be set assignments and will receive teacher feedback on those assignments. This provision will be available online by 8th June . We are aware that not all students have access to computers at home. If this is the case please do contact us at office@thomasclarksonacademy.org and we will provide paper copies of work.

Students will continue to receive pastoral care via tutors along with our student services and safeguarding teams.

A valued member of the

Brooke Weston Trust 

Year 10 and year 12 students

We are pleased to advise you that we currently anticipate being able to return to teaching both year groups in school for some of the school week, subject to the outcome of risk assessments and the Government announcement. We will share the detail with you and seek your views on whether your son/daughter will participate in these school-based lessons. We encourage parents and carers to think very carefully about what is right for their own child if we are able to provide this opportunity to attend in June.

The process currently consists of:

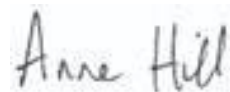
1. Fortnight commencing 1st June - A series of broadcasts via Microsoft Teams by the Principal and members of the senior leadership team covering student welfare, preparation for the return to school, explanations of what school will look like, the school experience for our students and our behaviour expectations of students. We will also outline our learning plan and the commitment we expect of students during these sessions. You are very welcome to join your son/daughter for these sessions and a timetable will be issued. If you or your son/daughter would like to receive additional reassurance after watching the broadcasts, it will be possible to request a follow up virtual meeting. Again, contact details will be shared.
2. Week commencing 8th June – some preliminary work assessing gaps in student knowledge and confidence to inform appropriate learning structures
3. Week commencing 15th June – Teaching our core academic GCSE subjects in school and most Y12 courses.

Whilst writing this letter, the Government issued further guidance on 21st May which can be accessed here. <https://www.gov.uk/guidance/help-secondary-school-children-continue-their-education-during-coronavirus-covid-19> We are confident our plans exceed the ambition laid out by the Government in the sections for year 7 to year 9 students and year 10 students and we look forward to sharing these with you as soon as we can.

We would like to thank you and your family for the continued support you have shown the school. We understand that attendance at school may be a very difficult decision for some parents to make and we will respect and support your decision. We are looking forward to welcoming your child back to school as soon as it is right to do so.

Please do not hesitate to contact the school office@thomasclarksonacademy.org should you have any questions.

Yours sincerely



Anne Hill
Executive Principal



Richard Scott
Principal