



Bridgewater High School

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19th June 2020

Dear Parents, carers and students,

I hope you are all well and beginning to see some benefits from the lifting of lockdown. This week we have been able to welcome back Y10 on a phased basis and I would like to thank all the students who have come in for the resilient and cheerful way they have negotiated their way through some of the barriers we face. These have included the actual barriers we have on the playgrounds to ensure safe queuing, as well as some of the wider barriers students face by not being able to return as normal, in a reduced year group and with a necessarily restricted timetable.

However, this has been a start, a much-welcomed start and it has been great to see students once again. Hopefully this is a sign of things to come when we get to welcome back more students in September.

Regarding September, whilst we still await Government Guidance on what any opening for schools will look like, we have plans ranging from full opening to partial and/or phased opening supported by a blend of online learning and face to face teaching. The INSET Day on Friday 3rd July will therefore continue as normal meaning there will be no online learning that day so that we continue with this planning. However, rest assured we will maintain the Y10 programme for those students due to come in that day.

Whilst September is looming large on the horizon, we must not forget that we still have a crucial four weeks of teaching left this term and my message to staff remains consistent: we must make our online curriculum and online care as good as it possibly can be for each and every one of our students.

Personally, what I have had reinforced this week with the return of Y10 is just how resilient and hardworking so many of our students have been and continue to be. However, not surprisingly they have also been clear about how much they have missed being with their peers and friends. Emerging research is identifying student interaction as a key element in student wellbeing – as well as effective learning in a virtual environment and I would urge as many students as possible to join our “Bridgewater Talks on” sessions and equally where possible, take part in some of the Microsoft Teams sessions that increasingly feature on Showmyhomework.

I would also like to take this opportunity to thank those students who have contributed video clips and messages as part of our Transition Day film for students joining us in September. When this is completed I will forward the link, if only so you can reminisce on your own experiences of Transition to Bridgewater!

Finally, I just want to reiterate how nice it was to see students this week and how much I am looking forward to seeing them next week as well. So, and as ever, please stay safe and look after yourselves and keep up the great work.

Regards

Tim Long



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