

Principal: Lesley Welsh



14 May 2020

Dear Parent / Carer

Coronavirus Update

I hope this finds you and your family safe and well. I am sure you, like me, will have been watching the latest news with interest. As you are no doubt aware, the Prime Minister has announced that, by 1 June 2020 at the earliest, we may be able to welcome Year 10 students back to school, whilst continuing to offer provision for priority groups including vulnerable children and children of critical workers who have been eligible to attend throughout the period of the school closure.

We are now beginning to plan for this partial reopening. It remains important to minimise contact between staff and students; we can achieve this and reduce the risk of transmission by ensuring students and staff only mix in a small, consistent group which stays away at a distance from other staff and students. With this in mind we would be very grateful if all parents and carers of Year 10 students could provide us with an indication as to whether or not your child will return to school in June. Please email news@gps.hlt.academy and indicate:

- Your child's name
- Your name
- If you will be sending your Year 10 son / daughter back to school
- If not, it would be helpful if you could explain why.

This will assist us greatly in our planning and we would be grateful if you could respond by 17 May 2020.

The latest Government guidance makes clear that students in Years 7 to 9 will not return to school in June. Our online learning offer remains hugely important and we are delighted to see the engagement from our young people. Checklists are updated for all subjects on a weekly basis and we encourage all students to log on from the school website and use the resources there to deepen their learning. This effort will make the return to school smoother for students. If your child requires any support, please contact hello@gps.hlt.academy so we can direct your query.

Safeguarding continues to be vitally important for us. We are aware that encouraging students to spend an increasing amount of time online brings with it risks and there is a great deal of useful advice on our website at www.georgepindarschool.org It has recently come to our attention that some students are using a social media app called 'Omegle' which encourages people to talk to strangers. We would urge you to check with your child that they are not using this potentially harmful app to text or video message strangers and make them aware of such risks. If you would like any further advice or guidance, please contact us at school.

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I would like to take this opportunity to thank all members of the school community for your feedback and messages of support at this difficult time. We welcome all communication so please do keep in touch. You and your families remain in my thoughts and I look forward to a time when we can return to 'normal' and see our whole school community back together.

Yours sincerely

L Welsh

Lesley Welsh

Principal

