



# SUMMERHILL SCHOOL

## YEAR 10 REINTEGRATION UPDATE – 1 JUNE 2020

Dear Parents/Carers

I really felt that I needed to write to you again this week to thank you for your responses to the Year 10 survey we received last week. We had over 160 responses, many of which share the same concerns as we do about the safety of students returning to school at some point. The responses suggested that 68% of parents would be happy for their children to participate in some face-to-face support in school. In our original planning, we had used 1 June as the potential start date to re-engage with our Year 10 students in face to face tutorials, based on the government guidance available at the time. Despite the change in the government date last week, which has now been pushed back to 15 June, we will continue with the video appointments over the next two weeks. This will allow us to determine where support is needed moving forward and plan next steps. Remote learning will continue to be set during the next two weeks in line with the existing timetable.

I have been overwhelmed by the immense support for the school and the genuinely lovely comments received. I cannot thank you enough for the recognition of how dedicated our staff are and how much they are trying to support students during these concerning times. We understand the difficulties families have faced for a multitude of reasons including lack of access to ICT, working from home pressures, furloughing, redundancy and illness. These are real problems for many of our families and we cannot underestimate the impact they are having.

The latest statement from Boris Johnson on Sunday 24 May suggested that from 15 June secondary schools should ***'provide some face-to-face support to supplement the remote education of Year 10 pupils, with a clear expectation that remote education will continue to be the predominant form of education delivery for these year groups.'***

Since I wrote to you two weeks ago, we have received further guidance from the Department for Education. This says that we can only have a quarter of Y10 in school at any time and that we cannot use rotas within a day. Combined with our determination to have no more than 8 students per class (so that we can maintain 2 metre social distancing) this makes the logistics of arranging good quality interaction difficult. We are still working on our plans for 15 June onwards and want to take account of the information gathered from the video meetings, but it is likely that students will only be able to attend school for one day per week over the remaining half term, probably starting from 15 June. School, as we know it, will be a long time returning to normal and we also have to be clear that any return WILL NOT be normal teaching and normal classes. Any face-to-face meeting will be about supporting remote learning and work will continue to be set for all students to undertake at home. I will write to you again by the weekend when we have been able to undertake further planning this week.

Coronavirus has not gone away and we have no assurance that it will not return. I wish I could say that a partial return to school is totally safe. This is, however, something which I cannot guarantee. We will risk assess and implement stringent measures which everyone must adhere to, but the fight against an invisible enemy is difficult! Scientists are still saying that they cannot be confident that the rate of infection will be decreasing to manageable levels and the current measures will not risk a second peak of the virus. We therefore have to ensure a very measured approach to protect every member of our school community.

Please continue to ensure your children are meeting the lockdown requirements, not gathering in groups and protecting both themselves and the reputation of the school in the local community.

Yours sincerely

**Martyn Palfreyman**  
**Headteacher**