



# George Stephenson High School

Dear Parent/Carer

12 May 2020

I am sure many of you will have watched the Prime Minister's statement on Sunday and will have read more about their plans and as a result it is likely you have lots of questions. We also have lots of questions which require further clarification. At present, there is **no change** to the current guidance. We continue to provide care for those parents whose work is critical to the COVID-19 response and only those that cannot be safely cared for at home. As with all other schools, we need clear guidance on how we are to manage social distancing in school to ensure we can keep our children, staff and families safe. We will need to have a robust plan in place with safety at its heart to ensure when we do reopen, it is safe to do so.

Last night however, the government announced (despite not saying so on Sunday) that potentially from the week commencing 1 June 2020 (at the earliest) they will ask secondary schools to offer some face-to-face support to supplement the remote education of year 10 and year 12 students who are due to take key exams next year. This will not be a return to full timetables or pupils back in school full time, rather some support to supplement pupils' remote education. These two year groups have been prioritised by the DFE because they are preparing for key examinations next year, and are most at risk of falling behind due to time out of school or college. Schools have been told to limit the attendance of the year 10 and 12 cohort in the setting at any one time and to keep students in small groups as set out in their guidance. The government have said that they have been guided by scientific advice at every stage. The latest scientific advice to government is that:

- there is high scientific confidence that children of all ages have less severe symptoms than adults if they contract coronavirus and there is moderately high scientific confidence that younger children are less likely to become unwell if infected with coronavirus
- limiting the numbers of children going back to school and college initially then gradually increasing numbers, guided by scientific advice, reduces risk of increasing the rate of transmission
- schools and other settings can make changes to how they are organised and put measures in place to reduce risks

This is a summary of the guidance document they released last night. The full guidance for parents can be found here:

<https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/closure-of-educational-settings-information-for-parents-and-carers/reopening-schools-and-other-educational-settings-from-1-june>

We will continue to keep you informed as more information comes available, but for now we will continue to work to provide on-line learning opportunities for your children and we will continue working on our reopening plans as and when the Government provide the additional detail necessary.

With very best wishes

Mr Wilkinson

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