

15th May 2020

Dear parents/carers,

Re: Some clarity from us here at Phoenix

It has been a couple of weeks since my last update – this was done purposely as I did not wish to over burden you alongside the copious amount of daily information put out by the government.

We are still clarifying what the Prime Minister's announcement on Sunday night will mean for schools and our community.

At the moment, nothing at Phoenix has changed. We will however, notify you the minute we have any confirmed changes.

We continue to remain open only for the children of key workers who have no other child care as well as for very vulnerable children. If you think this may newly apply to you, please email us at info@phoenix.sandwell.sch.uk

We also know that accessing the Free School Meal vouchers from the Government's Edenred website is proving difficult for some. Again, should you experience any problems email us at info@phoenix.sandwell.sch.uk and we will do all we can to help you.

Continuing to learn

I am sure that you are as worried as we are about students' missed learning. At a time when children's health, well-being and emotional welfare is so important, we don't want to overwhelm anyone with too much school work. However, this must be balanced with ensuring students do not fall behind so much that they struggle to catch up.

Therefore it is really important that all students in Years 7 to 10 and Year 12 complete the work that departments have been continuing to set each week. This work is compulsory and will be collected in when students return to school. Thank you to all those sending brilliant examples of work to their teachers. For those unable to access the internet and / or access a PC at home, we will be sending more paper based work to you by post before Whitson – completion of this too will be compulsory. If you have any concerns about the work we are setting, please email info@phoenix.sandwell.sch.uk and we will do all we can to help.

Following the announcement on Monday, once a clear coherent strategy is formulated for the students in Years 10 and 12 which ensures the well-being of your children and our staff with following the safety guidance and clear social distancing, I will be writing to those parents/carers with details of our strategy and expectations. I hope to bring these students into school for some face-to-face time with teachers.

I hope to get a letter out in the next 2 weeks with a possible phased return of students in these year groups beginning sometime in early June. However for us as a school to ensure the plan is effective I am asking all Year 10 and Year 12 parents/carers to complete a very simple questionnaire by Wednesday 20th May. The link below will take you directly to the survey.

<https://www.surveymonkey.co.uk/r/possiblereopeningschool>

You should be able to complete the survey on any computer or mobile device.

Moving on in September

We are not yet in a position to know what might happen at the start of September. What I can confirm is that:

- Year 9 students will have their GCSE options confirmed in a letter to be sent out in June. They will also be receiving a pack of work to help them prepare and transition to their GCSE/Btec courses.
- We will be creating some bridging work for students in Year 11 who plan to join our Sixth Form this September.

Again we will keep you up to date as we are able to confirm re-opening arrangements.

Thank you for your ongoing support and we hope you are staying safe and healthy.

Yours faithfully,



Mike Smith
Head teacher

