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Dear Parents/Carers

I am sure many of you will have heard that the previous plans regarding the phased re-opening of schools, before the end of the summer term, have now been scaled back by the Government. This is because classroom space and teaching time required to safely accommodate more students, whilst adhering to the current guidelines, would be challenging within most school settings. Guidance for special schools continues to focus on increasing numbers carefully, with decisions on which year groups or cohorts of students to return, left to individual settings.

The first phase of the re-opening of the College was focussed on supporting our students who are due to leave us. Whilst this has been very successful in getting our leavers ready it has posed many questions on the logistics around increasing numbers whilst being able to maintain social distancing, ensure safe numbers within bubbles and being able to provide safe staffing levels.

Following a review, I am now in a position to confirm that we have decided to focus phase 2 on supporting our students who are transitioning into a new Key Stage in September. Contact has already been made with the appropriate families to discuss this offer, with the arrangement being based on a part-time timetable between the 29th June to the 16th July. Sadly, due to the logistics around managing this situation, we will be unable to have students, who are remaining in the same class in September, back this term. We will also be using individual risk assessments to decide if we can accommodate student's needs safely.

Between now and the end of the summer term, teachers will continue to set home-learning for students and staff will continue to make regular contact. Free School Meal vouchers will still be issued to those eligible via Edenred.

I am aware that many of you will be understandably confused and upset with the current circumstances and have concerns about how the College will be operating from September. As soon as I have more information about future planning I will be in contact with you.

We are all looking forward to a time when we can welcome all student back to the college. But until then, please continue to stay safe.

Best wishes

Tom Smith
Headteacher