



22nd May 2020

Dear Year 10 Parents and Carers,

You will know from my previous letters, and from press releases, that the government has talked of Year 10 students having ‘face to face contact with their teachers’ at some point before the summer holiday. At the moment there has been no further clarification given to secondary schools, as to what this means. We are still awaiting further documentation, information and the promised “Guidance for Secondary Schools”. I therefore cannot give you any more concrete information at this stage but I wanted to share some preliminary plans with you.

Despite this lack of information and support from the Department for Education, we have been busy planning and a great deal of preparation has been going on since the announcement almost two weeks ago. However, we can only share definite plans and give a time-frame, when we are given more detailed information. Once received, we will need to check that our planned provision meets the requirements, both educationally and also from a health and safety perspective. Please be reassured that our priority is health and safety, and we will be following any guidance that we receive.

What is very clear is that school will feel very different when students start to return and it is important that students understand this in advance. I would ask you to discuss the contents of this letter with your son/daughter so that they can begin to understand some of those key differences. Please note that the information below is still subject to change and is designed to give you a ‘flavour’ of the provision when Year 10 do come into school.

1. Fewer students/groups:

In the first instance there will be fewer students in school at any time. Year 10 will not be in school as a whole year group; students will attend on a rota basis at their allocated time. When in school, students will be placed in groups (bubbles) that will in turn be separated from each other. Breaks are likely to be staggered and social time minimised. Year 10 is our priority year group with good reason and we want to ensure that time in school is used as effectively as it can be. The format of the day will evolve with time; it is likely that each week will be different. The focus in the first instance, will be on student welfare and well-being, reviewing how their work has gone to date and discussions around how we maximise learning, and support students going forwards. Students will have access to school IT facilities with school staff available to support their online learning. Our focus is ultimately on enabling students to be in a good position to move into Year 11, with a positive mind-set to achieving their personal best in their GCSEs. All indications currently point to Year 10 sitting GCSE exams in the usual way at the end of their final year at Maidenhill.

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2. Movement around school:

Each bubble will have their own classroom and washroom to use and there must be no cross over between the bubbles. Students will be expected to wash their hands on arrival at school and regularly throughout the day. We have already introduced a one-way system in school that is being used by students currently accessing our in-school provision for vulnerable students and children of key workers. The one-way system reduces the number of students in the corridor at any one time and reduces the chance of cross-contamination.

3. Social Distancing:

Groups will be smaller than usual and students will have clearly defined work spaces. During sessions and breaks, students will be expected to maintain the recommended social distance from each other and from staff. Students have a significant responsibility to protect themselves and each other as well as not putting anyone else's health at risk. It is therefore really important that students are adhering to the recommendations outside school too, so that they are not increasing the chances of bringing the virus into school or back home to you.

I will write with more specific and detailed information when I am in a position to do so. In the meantime, I hope that the information I have provided reinforces our commitment to provide as safe an environment as we possibly can. It is really important that students recognise the huge responsibility they have for their own learning at home currently, and for everyone when they start to return to school.

We are looking forward to seeing students again, once plans can be confirmed.

Yours sincerely,

A handwritten signature in cursive script that reads "P Wilson". The signature is written in black ink and is positioned above a horizontal line.

Mrs P Wilson
Head Teacher