



21<sup>st</sup> May 2020

Dear Parent/Carer

**Re: Coronavirus update 21<sup>st</sup> May**

Firstly, I do hope that you and your families are keeping well.

The Government's aspiration for Year 10 children to return to school is not precise and speaks of "some face to face time" with teachers to supplement their remote learning. We are awaiting further detailed guidance and we are aware that any increase in the number of pupils coming into school is dependent on the health crisis not significantly worsening.

The Government had said they would release guidance for secondary schools last week. At the time of writing we are still awaiting publication. It is rumoured that the new release date will be the 28<sup>th</sup> May. When this guidance has been released, we will of course be writing to communicate with parents our plans for phased reopening for Year 10.

We do not wish to rush into making decisions and will ensure that any wider school opening is carefully managed with the aim of minimising risk. With this in mind, and in line with Government guidance, it is likely that any reintroduction of Year 10s will be on or after 8<sup>th</sup> June, this is an agreed collaborative decision across the Stockport Local Authority.

We will continue to be mindful of children and staff health and wellbeing. As soon as we have made any decisions on how and when school may start with Year 10 students, we will inform you.

In the near future, we will be asking for the views of Year 10 parent and carers about whether you intend to send your child in before the summer break if the school is open. This information will inform our risk assessment and enable us to organise rooms and staffing most effectively.

Transport for Greater Manchester are yet to confirm if school transport will be running. I would envisage it would but with significantly reduced capacity for social distancing. As a result, and to minimise the risk of further infection, I am advising that, school buses and public transport only be used as a last resort and where possible, pupils should walk or cycle to school or be dropped off in a car by a member of their household.

I would ask that you continue to check the Coronavirus page on our website which is updated at least weekly with key information for parents. It can be found here: <http://www.stjamesheadle.co.uk/coronavirus/>

As always, I thank you for your ongoing support

Yours faithfully

Mr A Pontifex  
Headteacher