

29th September 2020

Dear Parents / Carers,

Thank you for your continued support in getting all pupils back into school safely over the past month. All of us are committed to providing the best education possible for your child, while securing the health and safety of our whole school community. Thank you for continuing to follow public health guidelines and encouraging your children to do the same.

You are already aware of the steps we have put in place to ensure the safe return of all pupils to school. We know that you will be keen to understand the impact that we have had in our first weeks of the term, and what our plans are to ensure all pupils catch up with any missed learning, and what will happen if a pupil or pupil is asked to stay at home over the coming months.

That is why I am writing to you today in order to keep you fully informed. This letter will also be published openly on our website and is being sent to our governors / trustees.

School re-openings	<i>The school is open as normal with a full teaching day being taught and no curriculum being lost.</i>
Attendance	<i>School attendance has been at 93% in the past week which is higher than the national average for returning schools. Please keep up the good work in supporting your child being in school. Furthermore, please download the Class Charts app to ensure that you are aware of your child's attendance and behaviour log including when they are serving same day detentions.</i>
Coverage of the curriculum	<i>We have returned to teach the full suite of curriculum subjects. In practical subjects there have had to be some changes to ensure safe teaching and these changes have been completed. We are using lesson “Do Now” tasks to establish where there are shortfalls in learning from the past six months and are using intervention strategies to close gaps.</i>
Remote learning March - July 2020	<i>96% of our students engaged in remote learning during the period of school closure.</i>
Remote learning in the future	<i>In the event of the school either partially or fully closing due to local restrictions we will be offering learning through lessons on Teams as well as on-line learning platform work and programs such as Hegarty Maths, Tassomai Science and Seneca English. Staff will send out a Teams link for students to access the lesson. We are looking at ways of supporting students who may have shared devices at home or a lack of devices.</i>
Mental health and wellbeing	<i>As an academy we have formed our mental health procedure guide to identify and offer support to students. Our counselling service has resumed and our specially trained learning support team are on hand to support students who are finding the return to school difficult. We have enlarged the capacity of our mental health provision to provide unprecedented support for our young people at this time.</i>

Thank you for your support in these challenging times. Please remember to follow both the school's and public health guidance to keep everyone learning safely.

Your continued support is much appreciated.

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'NH Harding', with a stylized flourish extending from the end of the name.

Neil Harding
Principal
The Queen Elizabeth Academy