

22<sup>nd</sup> May 2020

**Parents and Carers  
of TQEA Year 10 students**

Dear Parent

You will be aware from recent Government announcements that there is an aspiration to move towards *some* face to face contact for small groups of year 10 and 12 students.

As I write this, Government guidance has still not been released so we do not yet know what the expectations are. What we do know is that the Government does not envisage this being a full timetable. This is because, in comparison to primary aged children, they recognise that secondary students are most likely to travel independently and mix socially on their journey to and from school with wider circles of friends, placing them at greater risk of spreading the virus to others.

You will appreciate, with this lack of clarity, it is very difficult for us to plan what our face to face provision might look like and how we will best accommodate this safely. With this in mind, we will not be in a position to welcome more students back on 1 June 2020.

In order to accommodate any wider opening (beyond the current arrangement where vulnerable children and those whose parents are key workers attend the academy), we will dedicate the week of 1 June to training and induction for staff so that they are familiar with any temporary arrangements to address safety and social distancing before further students are invited back. This means that the earliest your child may be asked to attend the academy is 8 June 2020. You will receive detailed communication from the academy prior to this date, detailing arrangements for the provision that will be in place. Please be aware that all of our planning will be based around keeping our students and staff members safe.

**Attendance for vulnerable children and those of key workers will not be affected by these plans.**

All staff want to see our children back in the academy as soon as possible. Your understanding and support is greatly appreciated as we try to find the safest way to accommodate more children and support their learning as they work towards final examinations in 2021.

Whilst we await further detail from the Government to support our planning, it would be helpful to understand whether you would intend to send your child to school. Giving us this initial indication places absolutely no requirement on you to choose whether to send them when our plans are fully confirmed.

If you could also indicate how your child might travel to school (e.g. car; walk; bicycle; public transport; school transport if available) this would be helpful.

Please could you let us know by responding to [j.bickley@tgea.org.uk](mailto:j.bickley@tgea.org.uk) by Tuesday 26 May 2020. I will be writing again to everyone as soon as possible to tell you about our plans in more detail.

Stay safe and well.

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

Neil Harding  
Principal  
The Queen Elizabeth Academy