20th May 2020

Dear parents/carers,

I am writing to update you on our planning for students in Years 10 and 12 to start coming into school before the summer holidays. We are hoping to organise this to commence from June 8th.

The safety, health and wellbeing of everyone in the school is, of course, our highest priority. We are planning how to put into place the measures needed so that our school can be run safely, hygienically and with appropriate health and safety procedures in place when we re-open.

The Government has stressed that all re-opening plans will depend on infection rates decreasing and that it won’t make its final decision on whether schools can definitely re-open until May 28th. This uncertainty makes planning difficult, but we will continue to develop our plans to welcome our students back into school and we are looking forward to seeing them.

In the first instance, we will be inviting students to attend two academic review meeting with one of their teachers, one in the week beginning 8th June and a second one in the week beginning 15th June. This is likely to last about thirty minutes and will focus on how each student has managed with their remote learning, offering support where needed and a chance to talk about his/her experience of lockdown. We will stagger the times when students come into school and ensure that social distancing measures are in place.

Following this, we plan to expand out provision for Year 10 and 12 students with some small group teaching. We are currently working on plans for this that maintain the safety of staff and students. We will share these plans with you which will be based on guidance from the Department for Education.

In order to put the appropriate measures needed in place, we need to know how many students are likely to come to school if we can reopen from June 8th for Years 10 and 12. We will be sending the parents/carers of students in those year groups a text message later today, asking if you do plan to send you child back to school. Please email the school by return at sixthform@isaacnewtonacademy.org or call on 07775020784 stating your child’s name and form and whether he/she will be attending school as outlined above from 8th June. It is important that we know how many students to expect to support with the planning process.

If your child is already attending our Community Classrooms for key worker and vulnerable children, they can continue to do so regardless of which year group they are in and we encourage them to attend. If your child has specific health vulnerabilities, they should not come to school. Further details are available here.
We will write to you again on 1st June (following the Government announcement about school re-opening scheduled for May 28th) when we can hopefully share some specific arrangements and plans for these year groups. Please do bear with us. I know that many of you will already have lots of questions, but I would ask for your patience and understanding as we continue to organise the return to school.

In the meantime, and for all of our students in other year groups, please do continue to encourage your child with their home learning – we have seen such brilliant learning. We hope that you and your families are well and safe at this time and I will be in touch again soon.

Best wishes,

Jo Spencer
Interim Principal