

Message to parents from Elizabeth Kitcatt 5th June

I do hope you and your family had a chance to relax last week and enjoy the lovely weather. I'm sorry to be sending this out later than usual, but our planning process this week has been exceptionally complex, and we have had to carry out detailed consultations remotely. This means everything takes much, much longer than normal.

DFE announcement regarding secondary schools.

I'm sure you will have seen coverage on the news of the government's statement that secondary schools should be planning to provide some face-to-face support for students in Years 10 and 12 from 15th June. The link to the DFE information is here: [guidance for secondary schools](#)

As you will see, the aim is for up to a quarter of students in Year 10 and Year 12 to have some face-to-face support in school from 15th June, and we are now working on plans to put this in place in such a way that students and staff are safe, while ensuring that students have useful support from teaching staff. Please be aware that this will not consist of the normal teaching timetable - the time in school will be much shorter than a school day to avoid busy times on public transport, and to enable us to stagger the times Y10 and Y12 are in school to assist social distancing.

So - to be very clear - the main educational provision for Years 10 and 12 will remain home learning.

We are now working with teaching staff to create a schedule of face-to-face support from 15th June. This is a complex undertaking, balancing staff availability with the full breadth of the curriculum, staggering arrival and departure times and keeping groups as far apart from each other as possible. I hope to be able to share this with you next week.

What happens if my child cannot attend?

We understand that not all students in Y10 and Y12 will be able to attend for a range of reasons. Please be assured that attendance will NOT be mandatory, and students will not be disadvantaged in their learning if they do not attend; the principal source of their learning will remain the work they do online at home, which will still be provided. Do please let us know if your child cannot come; please be assured that the Education Welfare Officer will not be following up student absences during this period.

Health and transport survey of students

We have been staying in close contact with students throughout the lockdown, as you know, but it is possible that students' health needs have changed during that time, and we are also concerned about the journey to school that some students may need to take. So we will be contacting you (Y10) or your child (Y12) to ask them to complete a brief survey about their health and any transport concerns they may have to inform our planning. Please be assured that this will be treated as confidential information; it will simply be used to help us meet your child's needs.

Health and safety measures in place at Camden School for Girls

We are currently working on an extensive risk assessment, covering all aspects of health and safety in the school to make sure risk is minimised. The priorities are to increase cleaning, to provide hand sanitiser and promote the importance of hand washing and scrupulous hygiene and to put social distancing measures in place, and there are many other measures besides these. We are well on the way to completing this.

Please remember that no student should attend school if they or a member of their household has Covid-like symptoms or a positive test.

Mental health and well-being

We are continuing to support our students' mental health through our established pastoral systems, with regular contact from form tutors and Heads of Year. These colleagues are able to make referrals to our mentors if appropriate. As we welcome more students into the school we will make sure that their welfare needs are our top priority as they make the transition back into a limited form of school attendance.

Years 7 - 9

As you know, we carried out an extensive review of provision for Years 7-9 before half-term, and I hope this is working well for you and your child. The government's guidance does not allow for Year 7-9 students to return to school, unless they are specifically eligible to do so. This means that their education will continue as home learning for now, and we will continue to monitor uptake and to liaise with you about any concerns you (or we) may have.

The changes we need to make now are complex and require very careful planning, but I am confident that we can move safely and successfully into this next phase through working closely with you as parents and with your children. Thank you, as ever, for your support.

Elizabeth Kitcatt
Headteacher
Camden School for Girls