



4 June 2020

Dear Parents, Carers and Guardians

Welcome back to the second half of the summer term. Although the half term break didn't feel very normal the sunny weather made up for it a bit. We are now back to home learning for all students and as I reminded parents before the break this will be the default model for some time to come.

During the holiday the Government released new guidance for the wider opening of schools and this included some detail about their expectations of how, from Monday 15 June, we will have some face to face to contact with students in Year 10 and Year 12. Schools have been asked to provide some face to face contact with Year 10 and Year 12 students to supplement the ongoing home learning. For students in Year 10 we are planning to start this process with a consultation meeting between the Form Tutor, the student and a parent. For Year 12 students we will start with a virtual parents evening with consultations between subject teachers, the student and parents. The purpose of this approach is to enable us to assess how much progress has been made so far and what further support is required. We will be writing to parents of Year 10 and Year 12 students early next week to confirm arrangements.

I am sure we would all love to know what the future brings in terms of when school will return to normal. Some of you may have seen an article on the BBC website that was published on Wednesday of this week that outlines the expected disruption to learning in the autumn term. I think it is important that we are all aware that the return to normal schooling will not be a quick process. Some parents have asked why we can't reopen to whole year groups like the primary schools have done. The difficulty is that secondary school aged children are much more socially mobile and more likely to mix widely in the community. The public health authorities are concerned about this and their advice has been that the return to secondary schooling must be slower and more gradual than primary.

Despite the Coronavirus dominating my communications with parents there are lots of developments going on at Lord Grey Academy. One of those is that our Governance arrangements are going to change in September as we move from our current Academy Interim Board (AIB) to a larger Local Governing Body (LGB). This is good news for the Academy and means that we can now recruit two Parent Governors. We will be writing to all parents in September to ask for nominations for these two important roles but I thought parents would want to be aware of this opportunity in plenty of time. If you would like to find out more about this then please do email me at jim.parker@lordgrey.org.uk.

As it is the start of the term it is useful to remind parents that if you have any concerns at all about any aspect of your child's education or welfare please do not hesitate to contact us. You may also find helpful resources to help on our website too.

In the meantime please look out for the newsletter that is published this Friday. Once again there are some great examples of work that has been completed at home.

Yours sincerely

Jim Parker
Principal.

