

Friday 22nd May 2020

Dear parents and carers,

School Re-opening: Year 10 and Year 12

We hope our letter finds you, your child/ren and your families all safe and well. We continue to live in the midst of COVID-19. The difficulties this presents for everyone can't be expressed strongly enough in words. We are pleased that The Government have announced that schools can begin to gradually reopen for pupils taking examinations next year.

Following the half term break, you will receive a more detailed, personalised letter outlining your child's face to face support in school. The letter will also provide a detailed overview of the Health and Safety measures we will implement to keep children safe and reduce risks whilst they are on site.

I write here to provide a brief overview before we break up for half term.

1. Is school reopening for Year 10 and Year 12?

Yes, unless The Government change their guidance. We will know for definite about school re-opening on 28th May. At present, we aim to reopen for Year 10 on Monday 8th June and for Year 12 on Monday 15th June. A personalised plan will follow outlining your child's face to face support programme for the remaining weeks of the Summer term.

2. Will the Home Learning curriculum continue?

Yes. Home learning will also continue from 1st June for the duration of the second half of the Summer Term. Work packs for Year 10 and 12 will be released once pupils have attended their face to face support sessions. The work set will build on the lessons completed; enabling pupils to secure new learning of GCSE, BTEC and/or A-Level content ahead of them moving up to Year 11 or Year 13 in September.

3. How will my child's learning be assessed?

In addition to checks completed during lessons on site, most of the follow up work will include a short online assessment questionnaire at the end of the tasks set by teachers. The system used will enable teachers to gather assessment information before the next face to face session so that misconceptions can be addressed and progress maximised.

4. Will contact still be made by my child's Form Tutor or Head of House?

Yes. Our regular contact with you will not change. We are committed to staying in touch and providing the excellent pastoral care that DEC is renowned for.

5. Will anyone else be at school when it reopens?

Yes. A small number of other pupils may be on site, but will remain completely separate from Year 10 and Year 12. Provision will continue for children whose parents are key workers. Children who have EHCPs are also likely to be on site. Again, these pupils will remain completely separate.



6. Are Free School Meal Vouchers continuing?

Yes but not in the holiday. The Edenred National Voucher Scheme remains in place. The most recent release of vouchers was on Monday 11th June and were for £60 per eligible child. Unlike Easter, these vouchers do not cover the half term holiday. Therefore, the vouchers that have been released this week last until 14th June. New vouchers will be released on 15th June.

7. What should I know about safeguarding?

In addition to the regular contact we are making with parents and, in some cases also speaking to children, we must remind parents to continue to be alert to the risks. Spending more time online for learning and for fun sadly presents additional risks. We have dealt with a small number of cases already this term of children being targeted online by people who pose a risk to children. Anything that causes you concern either about your own child or another child, you must report it in the usual ways. Further details of our safeguarding advice can be found here:

www.decschool.co.uk/safeguarding

www.decschool.co.uk/parental-platform-guides

www.decschool.co.uk/parental-guides

www.decschool.co.uk/prevent

We cannot stress enough the need for parents and carers to monitor social media activity, online gaming and general online activity.

I trust the information here provides a welcome update on the coming weeks for Year 10 and Year 12. We will write to you just after the half term break to provide a detailed, personalised plan for your child's face to face support in school.

Yours sincerely,

Mr M Dunn
Head Teacher

