



Dear Parents and Carers,

We hope that this communication finds you and your families safe, healthy and in good spirits.

As you are no doubt aware, there has been much media coverage and debate regarding the expectations around school phased reopening.

The government stated that...

*We will ask secondary schools, sixth form and further education colleges to offer some face-to-face support for year 10 and year 12 students who are due to take key exams next year, alongside the full-time provision they are offering to priority groups.*

Whilst we are not yet able to confirm any specific detail about how this will work at The Dean Trust schools, we do know that the type of provision will depend on the numbers of pupils returning to school.

We understand that this decision is a challenging one and information is released almost daily which will no doubt influence your decision.

We, as do the government, understand and respect that this is a decision that can only be made by the parent or carer. The government has also provided reassurance that parents and carers will not be fined for making the decision to keep their child at home for the rest of this summer term.

As you would expect, The Dean Trust has developed a comprehensive Risk Assessment Plan for each of our schools and we have provided you with some key extracts below. We hope that this summary will provide you with some assurance that we are doing everything which is practically possible to safeguard your children, our staff and our school community.

### **What we are doing to ensure that our school sites are ready to welcome back our pupils**

- School site checks and safety planning with an external Health and Safety Consultant.
- Displays, signs and barriers to reinforce behaviour and social distancing expectations.
- Phased arrival and departure times in designated arrival and departure zones.
- Reduce furniture to support social distancing expectations.
- Sanitising stations and safe waste disposal in all rooms, toilet areas and at all site entry/exit points.
- Following the most current government recommendations on Personal Protective Equipment.
- Health and Safety checks of all services, utilities and equipment.
- Regular 'deep-cleaning' to minimise risk of contamination.
- Stop all but essential use of shared resources. Strict sanitising regimes where resources are shared.
- All staff, including catering and cleaning teams, model and encourage safe working.
- All suppliers to the school are committed to safe working practices.
- Fire/emergency evacuation and lockdown procedures amended.

### **What we are doing to support our pupils' wellbeing**

- Pre-return contact with parents and carers to find out about pupils' health, wellbeing, any anxieties and any changes in family circumstances.

**Believe Achieve Succeed**



- Pre-return opportunity for pupils to share their lockdown experience with their tutors. Pupils encouraged to share their achievements e.g. related school work, developing a new skill, researching an area of interest, helping around the house or with a sibling etc. They will also be encouraged to ask questions, share any anxieties and highlight what they hope to achieve on their return to school. This information will help us to plan for your child's return and any support that they might need.
- Support for families with the purchase of additional uniform and/or health products.
- Risk assessments and Health and Care Plans for vulnerable pupils.
- Embed 'Catch it, Bin it, Kill it' (for coughing and sneezing) and avoiding touching face with unwashed/un-sanitised hands, particularly at the start of each lesson and directly before break and lunchtime.
- Consult with pupil leadership groups to develop strategies that create greater consistency in safe behaviours and practice.

### **What are we doing to support our pupils' learning?**

- Planned provision to support pupils who have fallen behind in their work during lockdown.
- Planning for pupils who have made more progress in particular areas, during lockdown.
- One-to-one/small group (with strict social distancing) withdrawal for academic 'catch-up' sessions for pupils on site.
- Targeted online support for pupils who are not engaging with online resources.
- Increased use of secure remote access to 'live' and/or 'pre-recorded' teaching.

If you are a parent or carer of a pupil in Year 10, may we please ask for you to complete the form via this link <https://bit.ly/2yyfFC6> by Wednesday 27th May to inform us as to whether you are, or are not, intending for your child to return to school.

Thank you for your support with this matter.

Yours sincerely

Ms S Finlay  
Headteacher