Dear Parent/Carer

Phased reopening of RHSC

Further to my previous letters, I would like to update you regarding the phased re-opening of our school for Years 10 & 12, from 15th June onwards.

Thank you for telling us whether your child will be part of this initial reopening or not. At this point, if you have not indicated your child will be attending they will not be able to, as the detailed plans we need to draw up cannot be easily altered. Also, any transport that needs to be arranged by the Passenger Transport Unit cannot be easily altered without notice. However, if you decide you would like your child to attend in the coming week, please let me know, by emailing Mrs Young on wyoung@reephamhigh.com, and I will try to accommodate your request as best we can.

Be aware that teachers will continue to provide high quality work for home learning and pastoral staff will continue to contact families on a regular basis to ensure that we keep in touch.

Concerns you may have had about returning to school will have been largely around the safety measures we will be able to put in place. We have now completed our own detailed Risk Assessment and are implementing the measures detailed below. This is not an exhaustive list. I would be grateful if you would talk these through with your children, focussing on the most relevant to them.

1. We have prioritised the health and safety of staff and pupils throughout and this will always remain our priority.
2. At all times pupils must adhere to the 2m distancing rules. We will make this very clear to them, and as Year 10/12 students we fully expect them to be able to judge this for themselves, and commit to it when they might not be supervised as we will not be able to watch them every second of the day. This is a key rule that is completely non-negotiable. Anyone not respecting this will not be allowed back on any ensuing days.
3. Classes will be divided into smaller groups with a maximum of 10 children in them. They will remain in these groups throughout their time in school. To enable this, pupils will not necessarily be in their normal classrooms with their normal teachers or support staff.
4. All pupils will be required to wash their hands on entry and at regular times throughout the school day. They will have some time outside on a rota basis so that they do not come into contact with other children. When outside, they will have assigned areas to be in.
5. Food will not be provided in any form so a packed lunch, including drink for the day, must be brought to school.
6. If anyone in a group shows symptoms of the virus, everyone will then have to self-isolate at home for 14 days, unless a subsequent test for Covid-19 is negative.
7. The usual organisation of the school day will be changed, to allow staggered break and lunch times. There will be no tutor time and lunch time will be reduced to 30 minutes, allowing for 6 hours of learning time, split into 2 sessions of three hours.
8. Pupils, if not walking to school or coming in a bus, should be dropped off in the main car park well away from anyone else, and drivers may not get out of the car.
9. No unplanned visitors will be allowed into school.
10. Classrooms will be cleaned at lunch time and after school, and will have wipes available to use upon entry to the room, and whenever needed.
11. Groups will have one teacher only per three hour session.
12. Any school equipment that has to be used, such as text books, will be left at school and will be stored in a separate box for 72 hours before being used again.
13. Pupils MUST come fully equipped with pens, pencils, calculators etc, as we will not lend these out.
14. At the end of the school session, if pupils are using school transport, they will be supervised as they get onto buses, and will be expected to respect the 2m distancing rules at all times.
15. Parents and pupils must not gather in parking areas.
16. Only members of the same household should travel to school together by car.
17. Only members of the same household should travel to school together by foot, maintaining social distancing from other pedestrians.
18. As now, parents should only come into school for essential reasons. All contact should be by email or telephone rather than face to face meetings. In the unlikely event that a meeting is required, only one parent will be allowed on site.
19. Pupils must come to school in freshly washed clothes please. They need not wear uniform, but must dress appropriately, ensuring they do not expose more skin than they would do normally at school.

Year 12 – from Ms McGuinness
In order to comply with health and safety advice we are simply unable to operate our normal teaching timetable where students are taught in their subject groups. In addition to the following arrangements teachers will continue to set work online for their teaching groups.

To ensure the compliance of health and safety advice, groups will be limited to 30 students in college on any one day, grouped in two tutor groups of a maximum 15 students in each. Students will attend college on one allotted day of the week between Monday 22nd and Friday 26th June.

I will email Year 12 students and parents with arrangements for their specific tutor group shortly.

This first week will focus on pastoral support, plans for ‘next steps’ and ensuring that students are up to date with their academic work. We are absolutely aware that students will be at different stages in the amount of work they have been able to complete and that students may feel anxious about coming into college. It is important to remember that feeling like this is totally normal, especially after having lived through two months of change to our daily lives, which has totally disrupted our work, family and social lives.

Once we have established how students have been progressing and coping we will work with them to produce an individual action plan and where appropriate will be inviting some students to complete this in college during the last three weeks of term. This will ensure that all students are prepared for a smooth transition to Year 13 in September.

For those students who have opted not to return to college before September because of health and medical concerns following government shielding advice we will also be providing an individual action plan and their tutor or head of year will be telephoning them to discuss this.

We will write to both students and parents next week outlining more details and the day your son /
daughter will be asked to attend.

**Organisation of the weeks ahead for Year 10**

As stated above, the vast majority of pupils’ learning in Year 10 will continue to be completed online, at home. In-school face-to-face sessions for Year 10 will be designed by departments to ensure its optimum use, but may include the following:

- Checking pupils’ understanding of work covered so far since closure.
- Going over difficult concepts introduced since closure.
- Introducing difficult concepts soon to be set online.
- Explaining independent learning tasks.
- Answering questions to help overcome barriers to independent learning.

We know that most pupils in Year 10 will be making good progress in their time at home, but others will not. It is hoped this face-to-face time can provide some additional encouragement and motivation for those that are maybe finding it harder.

At this point I can confirm that, based upon numbers of pupils expected to attend, your child will be invited in for one day per week. This is because we are not allowed to have more than one quarter of the year group here on any one day.

I will email you again early next week letting you know what days your child can come to school, so please look out for another email from me.

The face-to-face teaching groups will be different from a pupil’s normal teaching group, as possibly will be the member of staff working with them. **We will communicate to you early next week what days your child will need to attend school, and what subjects they will be working on.** We will not be able to share grouping arrangements in advance of your child’s attendance in school. Whilst in school, pupils will only receive face to face support from English, Maths, Science and Humanities. All other subjects will continue to set work online.

I hope that this provides you with worthwhile information about the scope and nature of our provision in school over the coming weeks. If you have any questions or concerns, please let us know.

**Transport**

If your child usually gets a bus to school, we have been informed that those buses will run as normal. The transport group have been told who will be attending school and will ensure that sufficient capacity is there to transport them to school. **When on school buses, everyone must wear a face mask of some sort that covers their mouth. This does not have to be anything too technical, and can be a simple home fashioned barrier, such as a scarf. But, their mouths must be covered.**

Finally, please note that **anyone experiencing symptoms of coronavirus, or living with anyone experiencing symptoms, must not attend.**

Thank you again for all your continued support.

Yours sincerely

Tim Gibbs