



Da Vinci Academy
A L.E.A.D. Academy



Headteacher: Mrs. Katie Roberts

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Friday 5 June 2020

Dear Parent/Carer

I hope this letter finds you all safe and well. During these unprecedented times and as we move into the next phase of school opening, I would like to thank you for your much valued feedback. Students and parents have been overwhelmingly positive around the staff contact and support for our young people and you, their families.

Our plans for a phased reintroduction of Year 10 students at Da Vinci Academy are in line with LEAD Trust and government guidance. At all times, our number one priority is the health and safety of our students and staff.

The rationale of Year 10 'in school' provision must be purposeful, with teacher led lessons and high quality learning opportunities to supplement home learning. We will provide taught lessons in most subjects in school, including all core subjects over the course of this half term. The main aim of this is to help Year 10 students feel confident ahead of their important GCSE final year.

Timeline:

- W/c 1 June 2020 – this Year 10 letter sent to parents outlining our plan
- W/c 8 June 2020 – Year 10 specific letter and timetable issued and phone contact with all Year 10 parents/students. The achievement team and tutors will call parents/students to offer support and guidance where needed. They will ensure that students are aware of health and safety expectations, and are ready to return to school including individual timetables for days/dates of school based learning.
- From w/c 15 June 2020 - Year 10 students attend school in very small groups (maximum 8 students). They attend for 1 day a week for 6 weeks on their allocated rotation
- 15th June - 24th July 2020 – at some point during this time period, every Year 10 with their parents/carers will be invited into school for a 1:1 progress meeting or phone call/virtual discussion. This will be with the achievement and SLT teams to discuss progress, career pathways, online learning and overall support prior to the summer holidays

As we have demonstrated from the outset of COVID-19 lockdown, the safety of staff, students and the community will always be paramount in our planning. We have also done everything we can to ensure social distancing can be maintained and therefore the risk of any infection is minimised as best we can.

The significant changes that are being put in place include:

- The school day will be condensed for Year 10s e.g. Weeks 1-4 10am - 1:45pm
- Tables to be spaced at a 2m distance and classrooms to be limited to a maximum of 8 students
- Allocated routes for movement round school
- Students to bring their own drinks and snacks to reduce risk of infection
- Hand sanitiser will be provided in classrooms and other key areas
- Allocated toilet facilities for different student groups
- 'Keep 2m distance' signage around the school - students must keep socially distanced at all times, including to and from school
- All doors to be kept open to ensure no unnecessary contact and handling
- All students will be provided with their own equipment pack to reduce the risk of infection



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Despite every effort being made to ensure this is a very carefully phased reopening with low numbers, there will no doubt be parents and students who are still very anxious about returning, whilst others may feel this is too cautious. I fully understand all views and have empathy with each individual position. I sincerely hope you can appreciate this plan as being the safest way to re-start Year 10 school life and we hope as many of them as possible will take advantage of this opportunity.

However, if you still feel uncomfortable about sending in your children then we fully accept your decision and will not be challenging attendance at this point. Being completely honest with us during phone calls over the coming weeks and letting us know of your intentions will help us to plan. As a parent myself we will always do what is best for our own children and we fully respect your views in these unprecedented times.

Students in school will not be required to wear their school uniform but should dress comfortably and appropriately for the weather and school setting. All students will be expected to follow our behaviour policy at all times. Any students demonstrating unsafe behaviour (e.g. spitting, purposefully and transgressing social distancing expectations) will be sent home without reservation.

The government guidance makes clear that remote learning should continue to be the main focus of secondary education through the summer term. Remote learning will continue using our Go4schools system, our many online platforms and school work packs where needed; so that students who do not attend are not disadvantaged (providing they complete the work of course!). There are currently no plans for Years 7 to 9 students to return to school during the summer term.

In the meantime, the school is still open only for vulnerable pupils and the children of critical workers. If your child is clinically extremely vulnerable, or living with someone who is in this group, they should not come back to school and should continue home learning. If your child is clinically vulnerable (but not clinically extremely vulnerable), you should follow medical advice to decide if they should come back to school. Please refer to government guidance for further details of these groups.

Please accept our very best wishes for the remainder of the summer term. We are working tirelessly to keep you informed and up to date as the national situation and government advice changes. We hope that you and your family are well and do please get in touch by phone or email if we can help in any way.

Stay safe and all good wishes to you and your loved ones.

Yours sincerely

Katie Roberts
Headteacher