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Headteacher: Mr J Parr BA Hons

10th June 2020

Church Stretton Information:

To all parents, carers and students, we hope that you are all safe and well. We were pleased to be able to share an edition of The Link with you last week, which we hope you enjoyed reading.

The letter you have read from Mrs Godden summarises much of our ongoing work and thoughts which impact on all year groups, so the following is mostly relevant to Year 10 students / parents, but does impact on all students, so please do familiarise yourself with what is happening. We will continue to share updates through The Link each Friday for all students - please do read it so that you don't miss any important messages.

Year 10

Following the week of Year 10 1-1 meetings with staff, we are looking forward to welcoming Year 10 back for some further sessions where we will try our best to offer some teaching and support. **We will send parents and carers a link to a form which must be completed before your child is able to return to school.**

Each Year 10 student will have the equivalent of 4 full days of teaching and learning between 22nd June and the end of summer term. This will be arranged on a rota basis, incorporating English, Maths, Science and where possible, each of their option subjects. However, it will not be possible to group students into their normal teaching groups. There are 4 weeks of teaching beginning week of 22nd June. Students will be placed into a group or 'pod' which will be arranged by Dr Wood, Deputy Headteacher and Mr Longhurst, Assistant Headteacher, taking into consideration ability grouping, transport route and other subsidiary factors. Each student will receive a timetable of which day and pod they will be in as soon as possible – hopefully for the 1-1 meeting with tutors/staff next week.

Pods will be named:

Monday Pod
Tuesday Pod
Wednesday Pod
Thursday Pod

The lessons in school for year 10 are planned to be 'stand-alone' lessons designed to give students an opportunity to consolidate and review distance learning, check their understanding, look at new learning and prepare them for key assessments / mock exams which usually take place in Autumn Term. We hope that we can still continue with the normal timescale, but will of course be guided by government directives.

Remote learning will continue for all year groups during these weeks - thank you to staff who will make this possible. We are still pursuing the potential for some live online lesson support from teachers (all of Year 10 students have had a trial of this recently - thank you students and staff for your resilience where technology didn't work properly!).

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Live lesson support

We are rapidly continuing to try to ensure our in school network / WIFI can support use of a significant number of devices. We believe that with this in place, along with sufficient access to school ready devices, to be used in school and at home, students would be able to receive some specialist teaching across all subjects in all year groups, especially if/when they are in 'pods' which do not allow for specialist subject grouping. In a nutshell, if a 'pod' of 15 students is created and have to stay together to avoid mixing, invariably there will be times when some would be due to be taught geography, others history and others perhaps RE. Having such school ready devices would allow them to all engage in some live streamed lesson, delivered by their specialist teachers, who may be elsewhere in the school. Thank you, therefore, to the 268 parents and carers of students in Year 7 – 10 (76%) who indicated that would consider obtaining a 'school ready' device for their child to use at home (and bring in to school). With such a high interest, we have been working closely and as fast as possible with providers to determine the most suitable kit that they would offer. We hope to share more details of this very soon.

Transport

All Shropshire transport will be operating as of 22nd June, with a restriction on numbers of 25% capacity. We have checked the capacity in terms of Year 10 and with 30 students in per day (25% of the year group), coaches can have no more than 13 pupils on board maximum. We will be offering our own minibus services for students who would usually travel on the Bayston Hill bus and Bishop's Castle minibus and you will be contacted by Mrs Floyd to finalise these details (please note that there will be a daily fare payable). We have 2 minibuses and will be accommodating up to 4 students on each of them maximum. Pupils on LA and school transport will need to wear PPE (a disposable mask, or home made face covering). There will be a refuse bin available for students to dispose of used PPE only on arrival at school. Students who bring their own homemade face covering must bring a plastic bag to put it in when they arrive at school.

Distance Learning

Due to face-to-face teaching, distance learning will start to look a bit different for the week beginning 22nd June. Students will still find work set on Go4Schools, but sometimes, when staff are in school teaching Year 10, they might not be as available to assist with work they have already set for other year groups, who are following their normal timetable, and will not of course be able to provide any live support to some lessons for other year groups. Thank you for bearing with us on this.

Fridays for Year 10 will be a remote learning / consolidation day, following their day of face to face work during that week.

Uniform

We would like students to be in their school uniform on site, but fully understand that there may be some items that may not fit and ask you to wear a formal near alternative.

NB: Should you, your child, or a family member be in self isolation or if you are showing any symptoms of the COVID-19 virus you should let us know immediately and should not leave your home to come into school.

Many thanks for your ongoing support

Kind regards

John Parr
Headteacher