

20 May 2020



Holderness Academy
& Sixth Form College

Dear Parent/Carer,

I hope you are well and staying safe.

Unfortunately, we have not received any further updates from the Department for Education on the government's plan for reopening schools announced last week which is still *conditional* and by no means certain. Schools will only begin a phased reopening if "the 5 key tests set by government" are being met and this decision is scheduled for 28 May.

Despite the uncertainty, in line with the government's *conditional* plan, we are preparing – should schools open at some time after 1 June 2020 – to provide some face to face contact with Year 10 and Year 12 students. I must re-iterate that the conditional plan will not be a return to full timetables or students back in school full time, rather some support to supplement their remote education.

In primary schools, the government has made it very clear that social distancing in the way we all understand it (i.e. remaining 2 metres apart at all times) is simply not possible. Instead, schools are asked to reduce risks by grouping pupils into classes/pods (sometimes called bubbles) of around 15 pupils and preventing pupils in one pod mixing with pupils in another pod. This will mean separate lunchtimes, separate breaks and staggered start and finish times. Each pod will need two members of staff, its own room, and its own equipment. Within the pod, pupils will be required to practice good hygiene and ensure there is additional cleaning. It is less clear what secondary provision might look like. We await guidance, but it is clear that if 2 metre social distancing is required, the capacity for group size will be smaller than in primary due to constraints around classroom size.

We continue to plan what that face to face contact with Year 10 and Year 12 might be, and we will keep you updated as our planning progresses over the next fortnight, alongside the measures that we will take to reduce risk and to manage social distancing as best we can.

Year 10 and Year 12 students should continue to study at home until we communicate to them exactly how the face to face supplement to their continued remote education will be delivered.

Please ensure all students are regularly checking their school email account for updates from their class teacher. Some of the work produced has been fantastic and staff have taken great delight in rewarding students using our Lockdown Learner e cards. The highlight of my day is being able to witness some of this exceptional work and reward students with Headteacher Awards and post some of the work on our twitter feed **@HoldernessAcad**.

Explorer • Scholar • Leader • Collaborator

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Headteacher Mr S Wilson



THE CONSORTIUM
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I have attached a useful document from Seneca Learning who have just released a free parent monitoring platform.

In the meantime, we continue to remain open during the Bank Holiday and the half term week for key (critical) worker children and our most vulnerable learners. If you feel that you meet the criteria set out below, please contact us at: office@holderness.academy

A reminder that this list includes the sectors: health and social care; education; local and national government; food and necessary goods; public safety; transport; utilities, communication and financial services.

<https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/coronavirus-covid-19-maintaining-educational-provision/guidance-for-schools-colleges-and-local-authorities-on-maintaining-educational-provision>

Thank you and take care,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Scott Wilson', written in a cursive style.

Scott Wilson
Headteacher