

Dear Parents and Carers

Tough Choices

I hope you enjoyed reading about the exciting plans we have for Colton Hills in my letter to you two weeks ago. I trust also that you approve of our plans for the remaining weeks of this final summer term before the school year finishes on Friday 17 July, which were communicated to you last week.

There is no doubt that the Covid-19 outbreak has been a very frustrating time for everyone. No one - I think I am right in saying - thought that, come July, we would still be constrained and restricted in our efforts to bring as many children back into school as possible as we continue to be. The task of choosing which students to bring into school, and which to not, has been a difficult one. By July 17, however, we will have offered and provided the following in school:

- a) one-to-one meetings for year 10 and 12 with their tutors
- b) small group lessons in English, Mathematics and Science for year 10 and in selected subjects for year 12
- c) familiarisation activities for year 6 students before they join us in September
- d) one-to-one meetings for years 7, 8 and 9 with their tutors

With respect to d) above, despite our ambitions to the contrary, it is just not possible, with the time we have left and the restrictions still in place, to offer every student an opportunity to meet with their tutors. Parents of those students who have been selected to attend a meeting will be informed this week. Put simply, we have chosen this on the basis of need, with children facing the greatest barriers to engaging with our remote curriculum prioritised. This was a very tough choice – I would have liked to have seen all of our students again if possible.

Something that did not feature in last week's letter is that we have managed to find some additional time in the final week of term (w/c 13 July) to squeeze in some small group lessons for Year 10 students in all of their options subjects, to be able to meet teachers and collect a wealth of resources. Details will follow shortly.

You will also have heard the Government announce this week of its ambition to have all students back in school, as normal, in September. This is something we welcome and something we await the government to provide guidance for to allow us to achieve this. More on this will be provided in next week's letter.

Leadership of the School - September 2020

As my time as Headteacher edges towards its end, it would be a good opportunity to update you on news of your new Headteacher. Interviews for a headteacher took place in May but no one from the selected field of candidates were appointed. Whilst disappointing in some

ways, the decision is also testament to Governors' determination to find the right person to lead and continue the positive journey the school has been travelling.

I am, however, very pleased to announce that our two deputy headteachers, Mrs Walker and Mr Blower, have accepted the proposal put to them to lead the school in the interim as Co-headteachers. Having worked closely with them since their appointments last April and seen the changes they have brought to the school since September, I know that the school, and your children, are in excellent hands! Whilst I will no doubt say my farewell to you all in a future letter, it will be my pleasure to hand to them the role of communication with you moving forward, starting with next week's letter.

My best wishes to you, as always.
Stay safe and well.

Alberto Otero,
Headteacher

