



3 June 2020

Dear Parents and Carers,

I hope you are safe and well?

Plans for widening access for Years 10 and 12 to STAR Multi-Academy Trust Secondary Schools

Following my recent communications, I am writing to let you know of our plans for widening access to years 10 and 12 as outlined by the Government in their announcement on 24th May.

Our aim is to provide **additional support for students** which will be in line with Government guidance that states:

'We are asking Secondary Schools to offer some face-to-face support to supplement the remote education of year 10 and year 12 students, which should remain the predominant mode of education during this term for students in these year groups'

When will our Secondary Schools widen access to Years 10 and 12?

Our plan is as follows:

Monday 15th June Our Secondary Schools will have a staff briefing and preparation day and will only be open for vulnerable children and those from key worker families.

Tuesday 16th June Part time provision for students in years 10 and 12 will begin.

The Government's expectation is that whole year groups should not be present on site at the same time. As a consequence our schools will be operating rota systems and timings of the school day will change. Each school will provide specific details about these arrangements.

When you receive them, please ensure you read the details from your child's school carefully as it is vital to ensure the wellbeing and safety of everyone involved.

Children of key workers and vulnerable students will continue to be able to attend school as they do currently.

Does my child have to come to school?

We sincerely hope that every family who has children in these year groups will feel comfortable with the measures we have in place (see below). However, the complexity of the last few months means that we will have some children and families who cannot take up places due to shielding or may feel uncertain at this time. The government has clarified that students who do not attend will not be penalised at this time; however schools will have a duty to require absence notification in the normal way for these year groups.

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What control measures will be put in place to ensure my child's safety?

Working alongside national advice, NYCC and various external health and safety bodies, our Trust has produced a risk assessment process. Every school within the Trust has used this to guide their detailed plans.

We have made provision for additional cleaning and will also provide hand washing and other control measures. We will continue to review and enhance these according to need.

Our schools intend to practise social distancing in line with the measures the government is asking everyone to adopt in public and in workplaces, including keeping students 2 metres apart from each in classrooms. This is likely to mean classes are no more than half their usual size. This may, however, vary due to individual school circumstances. Mixing between different groups of students will be kept to a minimum as will mixing on arrival and for breaks and departure.

What about other year groups?

For any children not attending school, we will continue to maintain our distance learning offer and where possible run this in parallel with onsite provision. However, please understand that our revised provision will see *many* more staff working on a daily basis onsite and there *may* be less capacity to create online content.

What will happen next?

Schools are currently busy finalising detail and risk assessment. On Friday this week you will receive a communication directly from your child's Secondary School with details of the provision being offered. This letter will include the link to a survey where you can indicate if you intend to take up the offer of a place. The survey will be open until midday on Monday 8th June.

Yours faithfully,

Martyn Sibley
Chief Education Officer