



Noadswood



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Update to Parents and Carers: Monday 18th May 2020

This update explains:

- **Provision for Y10 from Monday June 1st onwards and from later on in June**
- **Mental Health Awareness Week**
- **Update on our Year 6 Transition Project**
- **School support for your child's wellbeing**

Provision for Year 10 and update regarding Remote Learning:

As many of you will know, the Prime Minister's announcement and ensuing guidance throughout last week included that, from Monday June 1st, *'at the earliest, we are asking ... secondary schools and colleges to offer Year 10 some face to face support to supplement their remote education'*. The reason for placing our particular focus there is obvious - this year group face the culmination of their qualifications in less than 12 months' time from right now.

You can read the official guidance here:

<https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/closure-of-educational-settings-information-for-parents-and-carers/reopening-schools-and-other-educational-settings-from-1-june>

At Noadswood, we are going to take a staged and careful approach to fulfilling this aim.

Provision for Year 10 from Monday June 1st:

From Monday June 1st, we will be providing all Y10 students with a timetable of at least one live online lesson, per subject, per week to supplement their existing programme of remote learning.

In this way, they will 'see' teachers live, hear their voices live and begin to re-establish that all important connection, as well as benefit from their input, their structuring of lessons, and an opportunity to ask questions on the screen during each lesson so they can get real time help.

This timetable will be published for you and for them, and will give a real impetus to the 'school at home' day and week - they will join the lessons via Microsoft Teams at the same time as their classmates and be taught for a 45 minute or so lesson that will include input of various kinds and time to carry out activities.

These lessons will be recorded and available to watch again or later should one have to be missed for other reasons and commitments in the home.

Mr Hewitt is writing to all of the students in Y10 with the detail of this plan, information about how to get set up on Microsoft Teams via their school email addresses and a video to help.

We will be following up the letter with support for individuals and as many shout outs to the students as possible so that they sign up and commit to this learning. Your support with this will be invaluable, as will letting us know if your son/daughter does not have access to the technology needed to make this work - we will do our all to help.

We will, of course, expect highest levels of engagement and good, sensible behaviours for learning during these live lessons, as well as appropriate safeguarding – photos/screenshots of the lesson cannot be taken and shared on any platform at all for good reason or silly! This work depends on the ultimate in mutual respect and safety, and we would follow up formally with any student who deviates from this in any way.

In addition to this provision, we will be inviting some Y10 students with specific educational needs to join the students who've been in school throughout lockdown for some help and instruction to support them with their remote learning.

We will not be inviting greater numbers of Y10 students than this in until at least around Monday 15th June - date to be confirmed nearer the time, and this is for three important reasons:

- 1) There remains significant discussion amongst scientists, senior medical professionals up and down the country and Government about whether Monday June 1st is the appropriate date to admit wider groups of young people into the classroom. This is quite understandable in terms of risking any sort of spike in transmission of the virus - we understand we cannot know on Monday 18th May how things will have progressed by Monday June 1st.

But as a result of this, we are to be advised on Friday May 28th, at the end of the half term break, and within one working day of Monday June 1st as to whether the science would suggest schools would be within safe parameters to do this.

We do not believe it is fair or right for you or colleagues to have to live in yet more uncertainty right up to the day before things could change. We are dealing in safety as well as educational opportunity and so lastminute.com should play no part in what we do. We want to announce now what the first stage of our plan is - the schedule of live lessons as explained above for Y10 plus specific students being invited in - and then be able to tell you with as much notice as possible when the second stage will be safe to roll out, according to the medical and scientific guidance we all must live by.

- 2) Secondly, I will be asking parents and carers of Y10 students whether you would be content to send your children to school, from approximately the middle of June onwards, in small, appropriately socially distanced groupings (according to guidance). We will want to know what your concerns and questions would be for you to feel as safe as possible about this. We will also be asking the students themselves and offering support to those who feel anxious or have queries.

We would not benefit as well as we need to from your views and concerns on this if we were rushing headlong for a Monday June 1st start to significantly more students in Y10 coming on to site.

- 3) Finally, we recognise, as many of you do from the conversations we've been having, that there is a need for all schools to plan for a hybrid educational offer going forwards for none of us know how long. This offer, we can anticipate, would blend live online lessons with school attendance and other forms of remote learning.

There is no ducking this new reality at Noadswood, but, like all schools, we need time for our colleagues to become confident and skilful with delivering live online lessons. They need time to feel safe with such a system, using decent kit in school, and not patching it together in their kitchen offices (with some unable even to do that because of lack of kit) leading to a messy provision.

So the roll out we are planning for Y10 will allow us to develop those skills, that confidence and that security so that, in the future, and in the right timescale, we will be able to offer this kind of provision to all of our students in a way that is consistent and professional.

Provision from around the middle of June for Y10:

Over the last few weeks, and prior to last weekend's announcement, like many schools we have been planning what form things might take when we do welcome more groupings of Y10 students from around the middle of June. This will be able to commence if things with respect to virus transmission/work to manage the virus as safely as possible goes as we all dearly hope.

We are now in the process of completing all necessary risk assessment documents, protocols and other vital work for this stage of our plan.

In this stage, we will look to offer small and safe groups of all Y10 students the opportunity to come to school to meet their teachers to have a thorough conversation about where they're at with their learning in each subject and how to make the best of remote learning combined with further such lessons in school and live online lessons.

We understand that some parents and carers of Y10 students may have concerns around sending students into school for this provision, depending on the state of play with virus transmission and other key indicators by this point; I would like to remind you that the usual formal attendance policies for schools have, of course, been paused at this time, and we will be respectful of families' concerns regarding underlying medical conditions and other vulnerabilities. We will ensure there is a dialogue with you about this to plan how best to meet your child's needs as well as possible if they do not come in once this phase of provision commences.

In school lessons and live online lessons will follow a published timetable, alongside remote learning. There will be detailed information about this phase of our work nearer the time.

Mental Health Awareness Week - Monday 18th - Friday 22nd May

Your child's tutor will have supplied to everyone details for the week's activities that we have planned.

We would actively encourage everyone to take a look at the activities, to join in but also just to check in really overtly with how everyone's mental health and wellbeing are holding up in all of this.

We would also urge you to talk to your children about their online lives and really find out how healthy and happy these are. Mental Health Awareness Week is the ideal time to do this - if your child gets on board with the activities or they're worried about something or you are, House Leaders and Mrs Loveday would love to hear about it and so would I at headteacher@noadswood.hants.sch.uk

If it's a worry, we are all here for you and your children so do, please, reach out.

In addition, we have a Wellbeing portal on the Frog School Continuity Portal, where all students' work is being set.

We are giving it a bit of a revamp at the moment, but it is a place where our ELSAs have put a wealth of information, support and advice, signposts to support services, and links to great reads for both young people and parents, covering pretty much every aspect of mental health someone could need help with, we hope. This will also soon be accompanied by a Wellbeing Pack.

If you have a question or a thought about something we haven't covered or you find something particularly useful, let Mrs Loveday or any member of our pastoral team know - that's our House Leaders and our ELSAS.

Year 6 Transition Project:

I am really excited to be working with friends from three other mighty schools, Applemore, Hounsdown and Testwood on our work to help Year 6s get to know their new schools in these unsettling and unusual times.

We are keen to work together to support all the families and schools whose children we share.

Our information gathering online forms (to parents/carers and one for primaries) have all gone out and we look forward to collating all of the information very soon.

We are also full steam ahead with our plans to make both learning based and welcoming films for the children to help them get to know us and how we work.

I am very keen to invite small groups of Year 6s to visit Noadswood in July and perhaps meet some of their Year 7 counterparts and some prefects if we are safe to accommodate this by then – we do hope so.

Support for your child's wellbeing:

As lots of you know, our tutors, ELSAs, LSAs, House Leaders and Senior Leaders have been checking in with lots of students about their wellbeing but we are keen to connect with every young person who needs it.

It could be that your child is struggling with a worry, or is low, or is getting anxious at all the talk of more students returning to our schools from June 1st, and they're wondering how it'll all affect them – if that's the case and no one is touching base with them at the moment, please let Mrs Loveday know via ePraise or by calling Loveday's Lifeline on 07946 884 122 on any school day between 10am and 12 noon.

We will find the right person to get in touch with them, and we can arrange a phone call or a call via a safe platform so that their worries are heard and you are supported.

We are also in the process of writing a programme of work to support all students with their wellbeing now and over the next few months. We know that all of them are vulnerable to some extent or other as a result of the virus, the lockdown and the ongoing ramifications of it all. We are putting together resources and an approach to this which is about supporting the whole community to recover together, at what ever pace and over what ever period of time it takes, and we will want the students' and your input into this via our surveys.

With my thanks for your enormous support of us all, the school as a whole and your children every single day and week,

Kathryn Marshall and the Noadswood Senior Leadership Team