

25 June 2020

Mrs S Watson
Headteacher

Dear Year 9 students (and parents/carers of The Castle School)

I wrote to you recently explaining that we were inviting Year 10s into school. The government has now said that we can have some more students in for some face to face time as long as we do not exceed a quarter of the year group and it does not affect Year 10 provision.

As we will have completed our Year 10 plan by 10 July, this leaves the last week of term as a possible opportunity to bring in Year 9s for some face to face support with the subject teachers, given that every child in the school will have had face to face online time with their tutor. The provision for Year 9 depends on how many Year 9s would like to come in. There is a link below to a survey for parents to book a place for your child. Once I have this information, we will work on what we can provide given the government restrictions.

As a reminder, these are the restrictions placed upon schools:

- Remote or online learning will remain the predominant mode of education during this term and schools must continue to provide this for all students working at home.
- No more than a quarter of the year group can be in at any one time. (For The Castle School, this is 60 students at any one time in addition to Key Workers' children.)
- All protective measures as defined by the DfE guidance must be applied. You can find all our risk assessments here: <https://www.castleschool.co.uk/parents/coronavirus-information.htm>
- Schools must continue providing full-time provision for vulnerable pupils in all year groups (including year 10 and year 12)

Parents/carers, if you would like your child to be invited into school for some face to face teaching with his/her teachers, please complete the survey <https://forms.office.com/Pages/ResponsePage.aspx?id=L-EUL11N3USI2F3alfkrxN14y-V2lnhHp34k-pyLUOBUQUhaRVQzUzBVSThDNFEwTFdGMEtDQlpHNC4u>. The deadline is 10.00 am on Friday 3 July 2020.

Further information

There is a considerable effort in planning this. Therefore, I am afraid that we will have to apply the following conditions:

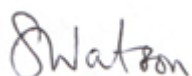
- Replies after the deadline will not be accepted.
- If you do not reply, it will be assumed you do not want a place.
- Please do not ask for a place and then not send your child in as that is wasting a place another child could have.
- If you have not booked a place, your child is not allowed in school at all. This is to protect the students and staff in school.

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I very much hope you will feel that your child will benefit from some structured time in school where we have got strong protective measures in place. If in the meantime you have any questions, please contact myself or Mrs Gormley or Mr Thomson.

I know that the Early GCSE is worrying some students, but I want to remind you that entry is not compulsory and well before the end of Year 10, we will discuss with you and your family what is the best thing for you personally. Finally, I wish to assure all Year 9s that, whilst I know there has been considerable disruption to your learning this term, it is only one term. You will not have forgotten everything you ever learned even if it feels like that. We will quickly recover in September and don't forget, everyone in England is in the same situation and missed this term. We have a good plan that will ensure you recover from the disruption to your progress in school, and that will support you. Coming into school before the end of term is good, not only for your learning, but for the recovery of relationships, routines and good mental health. I am really looking forward to seeing you again, as are your teachers.

Best wishes

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Mrs Watson". The signature is written in a cursive style with a large initial 'W'.

Mrs Watson

Full guidance can be found here:

<https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/preparing-for-the-wider-opening-of-schools-from-1-june/planning-guide-for-secondary-schools>