



Bexley Grammar School
Danson Lane, Welling, Kent, DA16 2BL
A Specialist Language College
and IB World School
Tel: 020 8304 8538

Headteacher: Mr S C Elphick

e-mail: enquiries@bexleygs.co.uk

Dear Parents and Carers of students in years 10 and 12,

My apologies for disturbing your holiday, which I urged you to take properly and enjoy a change to your routine. However, you will be aware now that my previously stated hope to offer some contact with years 10 and 12 "from Monday 8th June at the earliest" has been superseded by the new government expectation of **15th June**. This is, of course, to be confirmed on Thursday as part of the government review of lockdown measures.

We will, of course, remain open for children of critical workers and vulnerable children, where it is deemed that a child is safer in school than at home, particularly from 1st June when many reception, infant and primary schools may begin to reopen.

I write to confirm this new date and to emphasise a few points made in the guidance (some direct quotations) of which I think you would wish to be aware.

- "From 15 June, secondary schools are able to offer face-to-face support for a quarter of the year 10 and 12 cohort at any one time." (I understand this to mean that we might have a quarter of each year group in school at one time or half of one year group, ie. no more than 100 students each day.)
- Secondary schools are expected to "provide some face-to-face support to supplement the remote education of year 10 and year 12 pupils, *with a clear expectation that remote education will continue to be the predominant form of education delivery for these year groups...*"
- "Schools should ensure that the use of public transport to travel to and from school is minimised as far as possible."
- We recognise that the range of subjects taught in secondary schools means that some mixing may be unavoidable to provide pupils with face-to-face support from subject teachers... While in general groups should be kept apart, brief, transitory contact, such as passing in a corridor, is low risk."

It is important that we - parents, students and staff - enter this next phase together, with the clear acknowledgement that any single student in years 10 or 12 is likely to be in school no more than one day per week. "Remote education will continue to be the predominant form of education delivery for these year groups." Whilst every effort will be made to maintain social distancing, there will inevitably be low risk contact as mentioned above. And we will need your support in minimising student impact on public transport and in helping us impress on your children that they should not be mixing socially outside school - they should go directly to and from school.

Other updates:

Year 12 - EE and Part 1s

I understand that the majority of students are over halfway through their extended essays and are on course to complete by 21st June as planned, apart from those scientists waiting to do their practicals once they are back in school. With the disruption to teaching this term, it will be more important than ever that the extended essay is complete and submitted promptly so that students are not distracted in the autumn term when there is likely to be some catching up to do. For the same reason, it is also crucial to keep up with the remote learning for the remainder of this term.

It will not be practical to use the limited face to face contact we will enjoy from 15th June to try to complete the planned Part 1 examinations, so these are now cancelled. We will make arrangements in the autumn term to provide examination practice where possible.

Year 10 - Mock examinations

It will not be practical to use the limited face to face contact we will enjoy from 15th June to try to complete the planned Mock examinations, so these are now cancelled. We will make arrangements in the autumn term to provide examination practice where possible but it will be more important than ever to prepare carefully for the Year 11 mocks in the autumn.

Please share this letter with your children as appropriate.

Enjoy the continuing sunshine!

Best wishes,

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

Steve Elphick