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Dear Parents/Carers,

The much anticipated government guidance on a full return to school in September has now been published. We will need time to digest this information and to apply it to our context, drawing up new risk assessments and action plans to ensure that we are able to welcome your children back to school safely in September. I therefore ask for your patience as we work through this process; I will write as soon as we have a clear plan in place.

In the meantime, we look forward to the publication of IB results on Monday. Details about this are being sent separately to year 13 students. Similarly, we are planning for the GCSE results day on 20th August. Again, details to follow, but we plan to welcome year 11 into school to collect those results.

It will be sad not to have the usual end of year events which mark one academic year from the next. We would have had our third night of 'The Addams Family' musical tonight, for example. (The good news is that you can experience some of the flavour of what could have been by joining the Music Department's weekly Summer Soiree series, tonight (Thursday) between 6pm and 7pm - <https://youtu.be/shxzxma3M6l>). Our focus now is to make the last two weeks of home learning meaningful before the summer break.

Finally, I need to alert you to a social media concern that was raised with us this week. We understand that 'Omegle', a social networking chat room which has no registration process and which randomly connects users to other users, is being used by our children as young as year 7. See this [information sheet](#) about 'Omegle', which is not new but which has only recently been raised with us. I'm sure I don't need to spell out my concerns over this platform in terms of safeguarding but I know that lockdown has pushed many children to spend more time online while they have been unable to see their friends. Please work with your children to see what apps they are using and monitor their use. Also, following the mental health theme, please use the opportunities we now have to encourage your child to meet their friends in the garden or a park; they tell us that being with their friends is what they have missed most about school.

And of course there is more news and activity in today's Newsletter which will come out about the same time as this letter.

Best wishes,

Steve Elphick