

8 June 2020

TO ALL FAMILIES

Dear Families,

**Re: Roadmap for pupils and students returning to school**

I hope you are all staying safe and well in these challenging times.

We have had a highly successful first week back after half term. The Year 6 pupils returned to school for two days and we have been impressed with how well they have adjusted to new rules and expectations in school with smiles on their faces. It has been wonderful to have them back and we have been invigorated by their kind words about how much they have missed being at school.

With this in mind, I am writing because we have received feedback that some of you would like to understand more about the school's approach to how we are reintegrating pupils and students back into our school community in line with the most recent guidance from the government.

Whilst our ideal would be to welcome all pupils and students back to school, the safety of everyone has to be our highest priority. We encourage you to look at the IPSEA update on COVID-19 school closures and SEN provision which can be found at <https://www.ipsea.org.uk/news/ipsea-update-on-covid-19-school-closures-and-sen-provision#EHCneedsassessmentsandEHCplans>. It explains the government guidance that has been given to all SEN education settings and what this means for your child. In line with this, we have and continue to carefully "*consider each child and young person with an EHC plan and what [we] can reasonably provide in the circumstances*".

As you can appreciate, we are not in a position to provide every child with a full-time place at school whilst also adhering, as much as possible within our setting, to social distancing requirements. As a senior leadership team, and in partnership with OHCAT leaders, we have carried out an exercise to determine how many pupils and staff it would be safe to have on site when taking social distancing into account; this information has been used to inform our planning, including the reintegration phases. We have therefore set up a rota-based provision prioritising, in the first instance, pupils in Year 6 and 10. Year 10 pupils are at a critical point in their GCSE and portfolio qualifications and Year 6 have been working towards SATs and are at a key transition point. These priorities align with the government rationale for these year groups making a return to school. As you will already be aware, the school has also been open for vulnerable pupils and the children of essential key workers throughout this time and we have been supporting every family as best we can through regular communication and remote learning.

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As a leadership team, we are implementing a roadmap to allow other groups of pupils and students to return to school in the summer term whilst maintaining a safe environment for all. This takes time and constant review in ever changing circumstances.

During this time, we ask for your patience and support until we are able to communicate the next phase.

We also urge you to keep in touch with us in the meantime; we are here for you and your child, so please do not hesitate to contact us.

Yours sincerely



**Angela Drayton**  
**Principal and regional Lead for Surrey & Sussex Hub**