



KHD/maw

27th April 2020

Dear Parent/Guardian

I hope you and your family are safe and well. I am aware that you may be worried about when school will restart and what might happen regarding your son/daughter's option choices, as they will be starting their GCSEs from September 2020.

I would like to give you some firm answers to the questions I am sure you have, but unfortunately, I cannot and I do not want to give you any false promises, that I or the school cannot keep. At present we just do not know when the DFE will allow us to reopen for the general school population, or whether this will be done in stages. There has been some discussion around only certain year groups coming back into school, or even a rota system with different year groups in each week, but again this is only rumour and speculation. The only thing we are certain of at present is that we can only open for key worker's children, children with an Education Health Care Plan and those children who are vulnerable, as they have a social worker. Even then the government has asked, where possible, that children be kept at home due to social distancing.

In the event of schools reopening before September, we plan to recap the work your son/daughter will have been doing online and to complete the curriculum for Year 8. We would ask that you encourage your son/daughter to do the work set on Edulink every day, to the best of their ability. Should they need additional support and guidance, then please feel free to email the school and we will get the class teacher to contact you to give them the advice and guidance needed. However, if schools remain closed until September, then your son/daughter will have an induction and begin their GCSE courses, which will include them starting their option subjects that they will need to choose by a set date in May. Information on how to do this will be sent out this week. If you have any questions or queries about this, then please email Mr Preston, Head of School, gpreston@sandysecondaryschool.com, with your option choices, or to discuss the options available once these have been issued.

I am sorry I cannot give you any definitive answers and I hope you understand our communication with you is based on guidance we receive from the Government and DFE. Our priority is to ensure we follow the requirements to keep your children and our staff safe. You have my assurance, however, that when we are able to restart, your child will be supported and guided to achieve their full potential both socially and academically so that they are not disadvantaged in the future.

Thank you for your understanding and support.

Yours faithfully

Miss K Hayward
Executive Principal