



The Crossley Heath School

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Dear Parent/Carer,

I hope you and your family are well and enjoyed the glorious weather over the half term break. I write to update you all on our planning to open more widely to some students. Our principle aim is to have all of our students back in school as soon as possible but this can only happen when it is considered safe to do so. Last week the government provided some further guidance regarding the proposed 'face-to-face contact for students in Y10 and Y12'. As expected, the guidance is not suggesting anything like our normal curriculum at this time but one-to-one or small group sessions to review progress and prepare for September. Remote learning remains the predominant mode of education for students at this time.

There is no change to Calderdale Council's advice to schools in respect of wider opening. Their position will be reviewed next week. However, the school needs to be ready to welcome Y10 and Y12 pupils back when it is deemed safe to do so. Our risk assessments are ready, and we are planning to begin some face-to-face contact with students in Year 12 **only** in school during the week beginning June 15th, followed by Year 10 **only** in the week beginning 22 June. If the five tests identified are met by that date, then we will move forward with those plans and I will provide more detail of what the time in school will look like if we are given clear evidence to support that move.

I would like to thank you all for your continued support and kind messages, and to thank you for supporting your child during this very difficult period. I will, of course, continue to update all parents/carers regularly as the Covid-19 situation unfolds over the coming weeks.

The following part of the letter is particularly for the parents of students in Year 12 and Year 10.

Parents of students in Year 12 and Year 10

I would be grateful if you could provide feedback on your thoughts regarding the wider opening of school to your children in June and their potential return. Please complete the form via this link <https://bit.ly/3eUxXNc> as soon as possible, and by no later than 12.00 (noon) on Monday 8 June.

The government guidance places significant restrictions on what secondary schools may offer, most notably that only 25% of the cohort may be in school at any one time and that 2 metres social distancing together with rigorous hygiene and cleaning practices must be in place. The offer is further limited by restrictions on the availability of staffing.

Whilst we will provide more detailed information about what the school provision might look like for your child in due course, I can outline some key general features of the **first two weeks** below which may help to support your level of confidence and inform your thoughts. In arriving at these features, we are of course, strictly adhering to the government guidance. For information, you can find the DfE Guidance to Secondary Schools here <https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/preparing-for-the-wider-opening-of-schools-from-1-june/planning-guide-for-secondary-schools> and their updated Guidance for Parents and Carers here

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<https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/closure-of-educational-settings-information-for-parents-and-carers/closure-of-educational-settings-information-for-parents-and-carers>

Please note it is not mandatory for students to attend school and there will be no sanctions for those that continue to choose to work remotely from home. We have planned for all students to attend but understand that each family's circumstances are different, and you will consider carefully what you feel to be best for your own child and family.

Key general features for the first two weeks w/c June 15 (Year 12) and w/c June 22 (Year 10):

- For Y12 and Y10 students, school will start at 9:30am and finish at 1:30pm.
- Y12 students will each be in on 3 occasions during the w/c 15 June.
- Y10 students will each be in on 1 occasion during the w/c 22 June.
- Students will be in smaller groups and there will be no mixing ('bubbles').
- No student movement during the morning - breaks taken in the classroom. (Y10 students will visit toilets in their 'bubbles').
- Students sit in the same seat whilst in the class.
- Each classroom will be provided with hand-sanitiser and disinfectant wipes.
- There will be regular cleaning throughout the day and thorough cleaning each afternoon.
- Classrooms have been arranged to allow 2 metre social distancing (8 in a classroom).
- Larger A level subjects may take place in the Hall with 2 metre social distancing in place.
- Entry and exit will be strictly controlled to ensure social distancing is observed. Movement of groups along corridors will be for toilet breaks only and organised in class 'bubbles' i.e. no mixing.
- There will be a handwashing and basic hygiene regime.
- The school will strictly follow Public Health England and DfE Guidance should any student or member of staff show symptoms of Covid-19.

Whilst the list above is not exhaustive, I hope it gives you a flavour of the measures we will have in place to keep your child and our staff as safe as possible during their time in school. More detailed information will be provided to you about what your child's provision will look like in due course, when we have clear evidence to support us in going ahead with our plans.

Children who are critically clinically vulnerable

Children who are critically clinically vulnerable should not attend school.

Children with healthcare plans

We will contact the parents of children for whom we have health plans on an individual basis.

Children who identify as Black or from an Ethnic Minority, or who live with someone who identifies as BAME

We look forward to welcoming back all of our students, however, I feel I must draw to your attention that there is some research which indicates that people who identify as BAME might be at higher risk from Covid-19. Whilst the school is not in a position to advise any further, you may wish to give this your consideration.

Transport

The government guidance is clear that public transport should be avoided if at all possible. You will need to consider how your child will get to school.

We appreciate that many of our students normally travel to school by public bus, the Metro C6 or on CTS buses. We can advise you that West Yorkshire Combined Authority (C6 service) have confirmed to Calderdale schools that their normal services will run with social distancing measures in place, but they will not run additional services. We are talking to CTS initially on behalf of parents and understand that they are likely to be able to run a limited service with social distancing measures, but this will depend largely on numbers on particular routes. If your child uses the CTS services, please complete the relevant questions in our survey.

I appreciate that this is a difficult time and you will have many questions. By completing our survey, you will help us to refine our plans and support us to welcome back students as soon as possible. Can you further help us by not sending us questions at this time.

We will provide detailed information about what provision will look like in due course, which will address many common questions and we will communicate with individual families as appropriate.

Thank you again for your support for the school and for completing our survey.

I wish you a very pleasant weekend.

Yours sincerely

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Lynnette Cassidy". The signature is written in a cursive style with a large initial "L".

Lynnette Cassidy
Headteacher