



QUEEN'S PARK HIGH SCHOOL

Dear Parents and Carers,

I can't quite believe that I am writing to you at the end of yet another half term! Where has that time gone (even under lockdown)? I do hope that you are all keeping well and managing to benefit a little from the sunshine.

This is an update that I have been trying to write all week, hoping beyond hope that I would be able to provide you with some answers about our plans for the final half term of the academic year. As each day has passed, we have been awaiting further guidance from the government in relation to secondary schools opening wider from 1st June, namely in relation to us providing opportunities for 'face to face' contact for our Year 10 and 12 students, but nothing has arrived as of yet. This leaves us in a very difficult position in terms of being able to plan future provision and I feel particularly aggrieved that I am therefore unable to provide you with any real assurances other than the fact that our students in Years 7-9 will unfortunately not be returning to school before September.

This morning I received the following communication from Cheshire West and Chester's 'Directors of Education and Inclusion' and have been asked to share the local context with you:

As you will be aware the government have set out an ambition that schools are to re-open from 1st June. As a Local Authority, we have been consulting closely with schools and other partners about the best and safest way to re-open schools, at the earliest possible date.

As a result of these discussions the Local Authority is strongly advising schools not to widen their re-opening until, at the earliest, 8th June and that will, of course, be subject to any further developments in national advice and guidance. Schools will, however, continue to follow national guidance in offering places to children of key workers and vulnerable children.

We would also ask you to understand that not all schools will be able to re-open at the same time or for the same eligible year groups. This will be for a variety of reasons, such as staff availability (due to Covid-19) and the possible challenges around school buildings that may make social distancing more difficult to achieve when following the national advice and guidance.

Your school will keep you informed as to their decision about re-opening and when this will take place, and for which children. The schools have been undertaking rigorous risk assessments and the Local Authority will support schools with the decisions they make.

For us here at QPHS, we are keen to try to support a phased and part-time return to school for our two examination year groups (Yr 10 & Yr 12) prior to the summer holidays, but we can only do this when we know that it is safe to do so. We are working hard behind the scenes to prepare the school site and ensure that we are implementing all the advice and guidance from Public Health England. We are provisionally planning for Year 12 to start to return to school on a part-time basis in the week commencing Monday 8th June and then Year 10 from the week commencing Monday 22nd June. These dates are absolutely provisional though and are subject to change pending the release of further scientific reports today and further announcements by the government, which we expect to happen by 28th May at the latest. It is an ever evolving picture and I will therefore write to you again on Monday 1st June to provide a further update from our position as a school and try to keep you abreast of any developments.

At Queen's Park we are committed to continuing to support your children with their remote learning and whilst it has been a steep learning curve for us all (and a technological challenge at times) we are proud to be one of the only secondary schools in the area to be delivering a number of 'live lessons' for our students within our home learning model. We will continue to review our provision in the weeks

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QUEEN'S PARK HIGH SCHOOL, QUEENS PARK ROAD, CHESTER CH4 7AE

T: 01244 981500 | E: enquiries@qphs.co.uk | W: www.qphs.co.uk | [@qphschester](https://twitter.com/qphschester)

Headteacher: Lyndsay Watterson MA NPQH





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ahead to ensure that our students are able to successfully access their learning and continue to feel connected to their teachers and fellow learners, something which is invaluable at this time of potential isolation. Please contact school if you are having any difficulties around accessing work or if you need any learning materials sending home, we will be happy to assist.

Thank you for your continued support for us as a school, we are most definitely navigating our way through uncharted territories here but our strength of community and mutual support is helping us all through. Many of you have been in touch to give feedback and inform our thinking and we really appreciate that. This is a whole team effort and one thing I know for certain is that we are all very much looking forward to the day when we can hear the buzz and laughter of the students in the corridors once more, school is just not the same without them! We do miss them!

I hope you all have a lovely bank holiday weekend and half term break. Please take care and look after yourselves.

Yours faithfully,

Lyndsay Watterson
Headteacher

Additional links for parents/carers:

Please find below further guidance for parents/carers from the Department of Education and the Local Authority which may be helpful through this difficult period:

[What parents and carers need to know about schools and other education settings during the coronavirus outbreak](#)

Information for parents and carers about the wider opening of nurseries, schools and colleges, transport, attendance, free school meals and remote education.

[Help secondary school children continue their education during coronavirus \(COVID-19\)](#)

Advice for parents and carers supporting the home learning of secondary school children (year 7 to 11).

[Help primary school children continue their education during coronavirus \(COVID-19\)](#)

Advice for parents and carers looking after primary school children.

The **Community Food Offer** for May Half term - the Welcome Network in partnership with West Cheshire Foodbank, Mid Cheshire Foodbank and community groups in Blacon, Ellesmere Port and Newton and Hoole has pulled together details of the food offer for families during the half term break. Attached to this communication are details of specific community groups and how to contact the local foodbanks which cover the borough. Additionally, The Welcome Network has received a donation of ready meals through their Feeding Britain partnership and 1,350 meals are planned to be distributed through the foodbanks and community groups to provide additional food this half term.

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