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**Head of School: Joan Wright**

8th June 2020

**Returning to The Meadows School**

**Information about the wider opening of The Meadows School**

I am writing to inform you of the plans to open The Meadows School to more students. You will be aware that the government guidance for Special Schools, announced in May, was that we are encouraged to open to more students but on our own timeline and prioritizing the children we feel need to be in school. Having spent at least the last few weeks deciding how we could do this and working alongside the Local Authority and the other schools in our Trust, we have decided that we can begin to open more widely from the week beginning Monday 15th June.

We have been open throughout the pandemic to our most vulnerable students, the numbers of which have grown over the weeks. We have gradually re-organised the school in line with the principles of classroom bubbles. The idea being that groups of students and the adults working with them are kept as separate as possible from other groups.

All the information about our plan to return to school can be found on the school website under the information tab. Also on that page you can find information about what we have done and what we will be doing to try and minimize the risks we will all face. We have also produced a digital presentation that hopefully answers many of the questions I’m sure you will have. It will help you make an informed decision about whether you would like to send your child back to school at this time.

In summary our plan to open more widely is phased. It aims to provide at least one day a week in school for all students before the summer holidays. We believe it is important to offer our pupils the experience of the new norm in school before September.

The school will draw up a rota for students to attend which we will introduce over several weeks. In the first week, starting 15th June, this will involve opening more widely for just one day to Sixth Form students. In the second week this will be opening for three days, one day for the sixth form and two days for KS4 and if everything has gone well in the third week and for the rest of term we will open for five days a week, one day for the sixth form, two days for KS4 and two days for KS3.

The children of key workers and those vulnerable children already attending will continue to do so

during this phase. The rota for our most complex classes will be slightly different because of their needs. Further information on our wider opening plan is available on the website, with an explanation of how we will contact parents and how you can tell us of your intentions.

Our aim is to try to provide a routine in the day(s) students come in to school. We know that will be far easier for your own plans and for students to understand however we are restricted by the numbers of students we can have in the building and trying to make it reasonably fair.

In the first instance we will be texting parents of the children who can return to school next Monday 15th June and explaining what we need them to do. This is primarily Sixth Form students. We will then inform parents of those who can return in the week beginning the 22nd June. And the same again for the week of 29th June, when we would hope to have one day available for most children. Please do not contact the school regarding returning until you have received a text message inviting you to do so.

I’m sure you can appreciate a huge amount of work has been going on to make sure we are compliant with the government guidance and are doing everything recommended to keep everyone safe.

Regards



Christopher Best