



TANFIELD
SCHOOL

HARD WORK | TRUST | FAIRNESS

1st June 2020

Dear parent/carer,

I hope you and your families are well.

Before the holidays I wrote to you, to explain that for the vast majority of year 10, the school will remain closed until September. Whilst the government has continued to change its guidance over the last couple of weeks, this still remains the same. Therefore, students will continue to follow the arrangements that have been in place up to now.

We have maintained contact with your child through the delivery of live lessons from the start of the lockdown. You may have seen that we put a post out on our social media saying that 79% of our students are accessing online lessons, every single day. This is much higher than the national average described by the Sutton Trust, which found that nationally, this figure is 33% in state schools and 57% in private schools. We want to thank you for the continued support over the last few weeks because without you this wouldn't be possible.

Just as a reminder, the main reasons behind our decision to continue live lessons are as follows:

To socially distance in school we can only get 9 students in our north block classrooms and six students in our south block classrooms. The advice from the government is that groups of students should stay together with one teacher and not mix with a different group of students (they should be in a bubble). This of course, creates challenges. The average class size in Year 10 is 19, with the biggest class having 32 students. This would mean that students would be split and some students would not have their normal teacher. It is also very difficult to deliver the option subjects because each of the 9 students would need to do exactly the same option subjects. We don't believe that this is going to give students the same quality of teaching as they are getting from accessing the online lessons with their usual class and usual teacher.

TANFIELD SCHOOL
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We talk a lot about TeamTanfield at school. We want success for every single member of the team. We want no team member to be left behind. Therefore, if your child is one of the 21% of students who are not accessing lessons every single day, we will be in touch to see how we can support you further. We are going to continue monitoring the attendance to live lessons over the next couple of weeks and if there isn't an improvement, these students will be asked to attend school.

One thing I also mentioned in the previous letter was our desire to introduce an opportunity to have another form of face to face contact, that is not a lesson. We have decided that this will be an academic review carried out over Google Meet. We will be in touch soon to organise a time for this to take place.

If there is anything you think we can do better, please let us know by using the help@tanfieldschool.co.uk email address.

We will continue to keep you updated with any further developments. Until then, I wish you and your families all the best.

Take care and stay safe,
Steven

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