



Our Ref: JPT/HMH

15th September 2020

Dear Parent/Carer

Thank you for your continued support in getting our students back into school safely over the past month. At Abbot Beyne we are committed to providing the best education possible for your child, while securing the health and safety of our whole school community. Thank you for continuing to follow public health guidelines and encouraging your children to do the same.

You are aware of the steps we have put in place to ensure the safe return of students to school. We know that you will be keen to understand the impact that we have had in our first weeks of the term, and what our plans are to ensure all students catch up with any missed learning, and what will happen if a student is asked to stay at home over the coming months.

That is why I am writing to you today in order to keep you fully informed. This letter will also be published openly on our website and is being sent to our Governors / trustees.

School Reopening

Please try to ensure that students arrive on time rather than early (or late). School starts and finishes at the following times:

- Years 7, 9 and 11 start at 8:30am and finish at 3:00pm.
- Years 8 and 10 start at 8:45am and finish at 3:10pm.
- Years 12 and 13 start at 9:05 and finish at 3:00pm.

Y7-Y9 lessons take place at Evershed and Y10-Y13 take place at Linnell with the exception of GCSE Music where students travel to Evershed.

Breaks and lunches are staggered slightly and there is no canteen available at breaktime.

Students wear masks in communal indoor areas and should stay to their strictly defined areas of the school.

Extra cleaning and handwashing is in place to safeguard the school and wider community and we have installed an extra set of sinks for each year group.

Attendance

The whole school attendance for our first week back in September was 92.2%. This compares to 95.3% at the same time last year.

Coverage of the Curriculum

We have planned to deliver the full curriculum across all year groups. Teachers are identifying gaps in learning for all students and are using this information to personalise their planning for individual classes and students

Remote Learning: March – July 2020

All teachers set work remotely through Showbie on the school iPads throughout the period March to July.

At Key Stages 4 and 5, teachers continued to deliver the planned curriculum in order to ensure that students did not fall behind. Subsequently, examination boards have revised some of their requirements for the exams reducing the amount of content to be examined. This has been communicated to students by their class teachers where relevant.

At Key Stage 3, the curriculum was delivered mostly as previously planned. Adaptations were made where remote learning made this more difficult.

Teachers gave regular feedback to students on their work throughout the whole period and collected a wide range of information on student progress as a result.

There was huge variation in how much of this work our students engaged with. This ranged from some students who completed everything to those who completed little. The school has a full record of how students engaged with each subject and we are using this information to inform teacher planning and future interventions over the coming weeks and months.

Remote Learning in the future

All teachers continue to set work using Showbie on the school iPads. This means that any student who is absent from school though isolation will be able to access all of the work set in the classroom. Students will be able to contact their teachers via email. Due to the increase in teacher workload involved in planning for class teaching and remote learning simultaneously, we have sought to reduce teacher workload in other areas.

In the event of a cohort isolation, teachers will use Showbie to provide feedback on students' work.

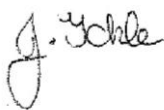
The very small number of students without iPads can still access their work on Showbie through any internet-enabled device.

Mental Health and Wellbeing

Each Head of Year has daily contact with each student and follows up any concerns. We continue to work in partnership with parents/carers. At the start of term extra lessons were delivered on supporting the mental health of students. Referrals to external agencies continue and meetings are held virtually. Our usual Safeguarding measures are in place and continued throughout lockdown.

Thank you for your support in these challenging times. Please remember to follow both the school's and public health guidance to keep everyone learning safely.

Yours sincerely



Jamie Tickle
Headteacher