

03 JULY 2020

Dear Parents / Carers; Staff and Students,

Today we are pleased to be able to share that the Government have announced that current restrictions on group sizes will be lifted to allow schools, colleges and nurseries to fully re-open to all children and young people, as Covid-19 infection rates continue to fall.

The press release published on 02 July from the Department of Education and the Rt Hon Gavin Williamson MP can be seen in the link below:

<https://www.gov.uk/government/news/schools-and-colleges-to-reopen-in-full-in-september>

There is a lot of detailed information in the guidance given to schools about how to support all our learners in returning to school and we will be going through this with the SLATrust leadership team, who are supporting the school, so that we can make sure we have the best provision in place to open our doors successfully and safely in September.

We fully appreciate that, whilst the majority of students will be over-joyed and excited to be returning to school, others may feel anxious about what this will look like and I will be working hard with the leadership team to make sure that we share our plans for the full re-opening of Giles Academy in advance of 01 September 2020, in order to reassure all our parents / carers; staff and students and so that everybody knows exactly what to expect.

It is positive that at Giles Academy we will be able to retain the robust measures that we have already put in place to reduce the risk of transmission, and will be looking to keep children in year group sized 'bubbles' and will encourage our students to keep their distance from each other and staff where possible. This will be alongside our already established protective measures such as: regular cleaning and handwashing; the segregated Year Group yard / playground areas and the one-way system in school.

There will be more details to follow on this and we will keep parents / carers; staff and students fully informed of any plans as they are put in place.

Additionally, we have attached a link below which will enable parents to access the DFE guidance for parents about the Autumn Term opening:

<https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/what-parents-and-carers-need-to-know-about-early-years-providers-schools-and-colleges-during-the-coronavirus-covid-19-outbreak/what-parents-and-carers-need-to-know-about-early-years-providers-schools-and-colleges-in-the-autumn-term>

Also this week we would like to again thank all our students who have again attended school for face to face learning sessions being offered prior to the end of Term 6. They have again been fantastic and have shown great maturity and dedication to their work ... we are proud of them all!

As the school has started to now welcome an increasing number of students back on to the school site, there has also been an increasing number of staff, both pastoral and teaching, on school site doing a great job. We aim to expand this plan and can confirm that we have requested for all staff to return to school on the 16 and 17 July and with all Head of Department and Team Leaders on 15 July. Additionally, departments and pastoral teams have been working in school on many other days, planning and assessing work for students and preparing for September.

Therefore, Key Worker children will still be supported on the school site, but work set for all other students from Monday 13 July until the end of term will be focussed on critical catch up tasks and securing all other past tasks and a chance to start on the summer work that has been set. More details about this plan will be sent out in the next week.

I hope that parents will support us in this decision, in light of the recent announcement on schools returning the decision to request all staff back on school site, seems even more appropriate now. We want to make sure that September is the best possible start for all our learners and need the time to secure our planning.

We are very excited about being able to share our future plans with you all for September and Term 1 and even more excited about the prospect of having all our lovely students back in September that we have missed so much!

Kind regards

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Katie Belcher', written in a cursive style.

Katie Belcher
Deputy Headteacher