

10<sup>th</sup> July 2020

Dear Families,

As you will have seen from my letter last Friday, we are currently working on our plans for a full re-opening in September which includes:

- Amending our detailed Risk Assessment of the school site to take into account the increased number of staff and students required to be on site from the start of next term
- Evaluating a number of different organisational models to ensure that the full timetable can be delivered in a safe way and that it is compliant with the government guidance
- Finalising the start of term arrangements to include transition days for Year 7 and Year 12 on Thursday 3<sup>rd</sup> and Friday 4<sup>th</sup> September, with the rest of the school returning on Monday 7<sup>th</sup> September

We have shared our initial thoughts with our Governing Body and will await further DfE guidance due in August but suffice to say that the school will be operating in a very different way from September onwards and for the foreseeable future. The guidance for parents has been updated and can be found here <https://tinyurl.com/yasc7m4d>

The face-to-face support sessions for Y10 and Y12 continue to take place and it is a pleasure to see some of our students back in school. The students' responses to the social distancing measures and amended behavioural expectations bodes well for September and I would like to commend their responsible attitudes and maturity in following the very prescriptive protocols required of them as part of our Risk Assessment. This has allowed us to keep all members of our community safe when they are on site and we are now looking forward to welcoming some students in Years 7 – 9 for a face to face session next week.

We know that some families will be travelling abroad for holidays over the summer break and we want to remind you that the 14-day quarantine may still be required in some cases. I would also like to take this opportunity to inform you that the government has made it clear that all students will be expected to attend school from September 2020 and that the Local Authority will be expected to issue Penalty Fines to the parents of students who are not attending. However, we completely understand that some families will be anxious to hear this, so if you have any concerns regarding attendance and the proposed return in September, please contact Ms Finan via email [lfinan@raynespark.merton.sch.uk](mailto:lfinan@raynespark.merton.sch.uk)

To help and support students with the return to school, we are completing a mental health and wellbeing survey with every year group. Students will have an opportunity to share how they feel about the return and what support they would like and we kindly request that you encourage your child to complete it.

Whilst we would like to send you our final plans in the summer mailing you usually receive at the start of the holidays, we believe it would be beneficial to wait until we have received further guidance in August. However, should you have any queries in the meantime, please don't hesitate to email us on [help@raynespark.merton.sch.uk](mailto:help@raynespark.merton.sch.uk)

My thanks to parents and carers in all year groups for their on-going support and commitment during these challenging and unprecedented times and to students for engaging so well with our remote teaching pilot.

Best wishes for what is officially the last week of term and stay safe and well.

Best regards,

*K. Heard*

**Mrs K Heard**  
**Headteacher**