

14 May 2020

Dear Parents / Carers

Following the announcements over the long weekend I felt it important to clarify the school position re future opening. In essence, for all secondary schools in England, there is no significant change in short term arrangements. The guidance published by the Department for Education for secondary schools is that there *may* be some 'face to face contact' with year 10 and 12 students, but they are not going to return on a full-time basis, before the summer holidays. Disappointingly it is now unlikely that other year groups will return onto the school site, before September. We, like everyone else, though await further guidance on exactly what this 'road map' means for our students, families and our community.

It thereby seems prevalent, to take this opportunity to remind you that our on-site childcare arrangements remain in place for students within the following categories:

- Children of critical workers who cannot be safely cared for at home (as defined at <https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/coronavirus-covid-19-maintaining-educational-provision/guidance-for-schools-colleges-and-local-authorities-on-maintaining-educational-provision>)
- Looked After Children
- Children with an allocated social worker
- Children with an Educational, Health and Care Plan

In addition to this, we have recently received updated guidance from the Department for Education, stating that children within the following categories are now also eligible to access childcare on school site should parents wish to take advantage of this:

- Young carers
- Adopted children

If your child falls into the categories named above, and you would like to request a place at school, please email parsonsj@nestonhigh.com with details of the days required. Please note that you may be asked to provide supporting documentation as evidence that your child meets the criteria above.

We know that some employers will be encouraging you to return to work, but unfortunately, we are not in a position to extend places to children who do not fall into the categories above unless we receive further government guidance. The latest government advice is available by following this link - [Guidance critical workers who can access schools or educational settings](#) (updated 5/5/2020).

I will continue to update you as information becomes available. Please be reassured that any decisions we take around re-opening the school to more of our young people are being carefully considered and planned based on the most updated national advice and guidance. Stay safe and thank you for your on-going patience at this time.

Mr K Simpson
Headteacher
Neston High school