



Dear Parents/Carers,

I would like to first start by thanking you for your patience following the Government's announcement last Sunday regarding the phased return to school. Any dates that are mentioned in this letter are all subject to change and parents/carers will be fully informed if we have to change, this will be government driven and based on the five tests they are conducting and awaiting results from.

The current Government plans are to begin a phased opening of some year groups from – at the earliest – 1st June, subject to certain criteria being met.

For Coal Clough Academy this will be the 8th June (at the very earliest.) as we are managing larger numbers on the school site, careful planning of this needs to be done before we reopen.

Classes included in the first phase are Year 10. There will be no change to the current provision for the critical worker/vulnerable group. This letter is directed to all parents though especially for parents of children in those year groups, mentioned above.

As a Headteacher, this is the hardest letter I have ever had to write however I feel I need to be totally open and honest with you. School will be a very different place - it will certainly not be school as you know it. I want to therefore share a few facts about what school will be like for your child, should you decide to send them back.

In the last few days we have been given a tremendous amount of guidance on schools reopening. The current guidance states, 'It is still important to reduce contact between people as much as possible, and we can achieve that and reduce transmission risk by ensuring children, young people and staff where possible, only mix in a small, consistent group and that small group stays away from other people and groups.' The parental guidance attached in this email has a direct link to this guidance, "Implementing protective measures in education and child care settings".

Year 10 will be entitled to access tutorials across the school, these will be run on a Tuesday and Thursday only. Many of them will have to make their own way to and from school unless they live over a 1.5mile radius and transport will be provided (Only if they normally have transport to and from school).

The Year 10 cohort will not mix with any other child that has already been accessing the school. There will be many adjustments made to the current layout of the school such as desks being 2 metres apart, excess furniture will be removed from classes and children will be given their own equipment. There will also be arrangements for the use of toilets and cleaning around the school will be carefully planned.

Children won't have access to all the practical resources they would normally have as guidance states that soft furnishings will be removed. All children will remain with the same adult(s) and the same children throughout the day and there will be no mixing with any children in other groups.

We cannot guarantee all children will be with their friends, class teacher or in their usual classroom. On their return, children will be encouraged at all times to remain at least 2 metres from others. There will be no social times at this stage and meals will be provided on a 'grab and go' service. There will also be a need to arrange staggered drop off and collection times.

We will need to look at how the school can accommodate reopening for Year 10 and I am sure you will understand that all of this will involve careful planning and it is vital that we continue to minimise the risks to staff and children.



All the staff at Coal Clough Academy want the children back in school - we miss them all so much. As you can imagine the complexity of this situation is enormous though our senior leadership team and Governing Body are considering a carefully thought out plan to maximise safety.

Guidance is being updated daily and we are drawing up plans that work best for our children, our staff and school community – this may not be the same as other schools in the country.

As a parent myself, I know I would want to know these details before I made any decision. Should you decide that you wish for your child to stay at home, that is absolutely fine. Whichever decision you make we will totally understand and respect that decision. What I do ask though is that you please decide one way or the other – it will take a lot of organising and we need to know firm numbers.

Parents of year 10 children;

Today I am asking parents with children in Year 10 ONLY to inform school if you intend to send your child/children back. Please note this will not be until the 8th of June at Coal Clough Academy.(At the very earliest.)

Please email your response to enquiries@coalclough.org stating your child's name and with one of the following statements

My child is in Year 10 and I intend to send them back to school on the 8th of June (at the very earliest) OR I am NOT intending to send my child into school.

Please respond by midday on Friday 22nd of May as we need the numbers of children who may return so we can plan any further. Please note that it is ONLY Year 10 at the moment– if you have children in other years they CANNOT return to school until the next phase is announced.

Again, thank you for your support during this period. Should you want to discuss any element of this letter further please email me on hclarke@coalclough.org

Take care and stay safe,

Yours sincerely

H Clarke

Holly Clarke