



14 May 2020

Dear Parents / Carers

I know that many of you will be following the announcements made by the Government over the past two days.

Currently, Ivybridge Community College will continue to offer places for vulnerable children and those of key workers, but we understand that many parents will want to know more about when their children will return to College. Across the country, schools will also have heard this news for the first time and over the course of the next few weeks we will be reviewing the detailed guidance government has stated it will provide.

Yesterday evening, detailed guidance was published for the first time for school leaders and a link document for parents and carers. Please read the link below.

<https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/closure-of-educational-settings-information-for-parents-and-carers/reopening-schools-and-other-educational-settings-from-1-june>

Consequently, we are currently working hard to take the necessary action required to prepare to partially open the College on a phased return to the identified year groups in a safe manner.

Now that we have more guidance, we will be:

- Working with you, as parents and carers, to understand your concerns and views so we can take this into consideration in our planning. When we issue a survey in the next few days, please do take time to complete this for us.
- Conducting a student survey in order that we can reflect on student views in relation to their Home Learning studies, wellbeing support and how we can continue to improve our provision over the next few months.
- Undertaking a detailed review of transport arrangements, staffing ratios, and site management in line with government health and safety recommendations. This will help us to make a clear plan for the changes we need to make to support recommended hygiene and social distancing measures.

These initial actions will then enable us to consider in detail how we support the Government's plan for the remainder of the Summer Term:

- *"For pupils in Year 10 and 12 we are asking schools and colleges to supplement remote education with some face to face support for these groups from 1 June 2020. We do not expect these pupils to return to school or college on a full-time basis at this stage."*
- *"We will ensure that students who have key exams next year have an understanding of how teachers will support them to stay on track with a blend of distance learning, independent study and attendance for some in school sessions."*  
*Prime Minister briefing*

It is now clear that those students in all other Year Groups who have not attended College since the closures in March are not likely to return until September.

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We will continue to prioritise pastoral care via telephone calls and emails, as well as weekly bulletins to support students with their home learning tasks. We are continuing to make the necessary improvements to increase teacher – student communication and opportunities to celebrate and praise students for their incredible perseverance and endeavours during this period.

We are also already committed to:

- The continuation of Educare on a full-time basis for the children of key workers and vulnerable students.
- Providing vouchers to support our families eligible for free school meals.
- Endeavouring to provide laptop devices to support vulnerable students who are struggling to access online learning. Please contact the College via the Year Group support email for further information.
- Submitting the required information to Examination Boards by the set deadlines.
- Ensuring that current Year 11 and Year 13 students are supported with the plans they have in place for transition to their next provision.
- Working closely with our primary partner schools to plan how we can support the experience for children joining our College in September.
- Ensuring that our distance learning resources and support continues to improve.

We will also need to think about how we develop the flexibilities that may be required if partial closures remain in place for a long period of time.

We hope to send you an update before the start of half term, once we have received further government guidance, which is due to be released over the next few days.

Thank you for continuing to support your children and the College, we appreciate the many thoughtful messages we continue to receive.

Yours sincerely

Rachel Hutchinson  
**College Principal**

Please continue to use the support email addresses to contact the College if you have any questions or require further support with distance learning:

[year7support@ivybridge.devon.sch.uk](mailto:year7support@ivybridge.devon.sch.uk)  
[year8support@ivybridge.devon.sch.uk](mailto:year8support@ivybridge.devon.sch.uk)  
[year9support@ivybridge.devon.sch.uk](mailto:year9support@ivybridge.devon.sch.uk)  
[year10support@ivybridge.devon.sch.uk](mailto:year10support@ivybridge.devon.sch.uk)

There is also the Year 8 Options email address if your enquiry is specific to this area:  
[year8options@ivybridge.devon.sch.uk](mailto:year8options@ivybridge.devon.sch.uk)