

15 June 2020

Dear Parents/Carers

What a difference a few days make!

I am delighted to be able to update you with positive news, following the Chief Minister's fantastic and rather unexpected announcement last Thursday evening about the speedy removal of the legal requirement for social distancing on the Island from today, Monday 15 June. Castle Rushen High School will soon be re-opening for business.

Once we welcome each year group back, this change will allow the school to operate almost normally, subject to a few extra protocols e.g. regarding hygiene and illness. However unlikely it may now seem, if your son/daughter has any potential symptoms of coronavirus you must not send them to school and must follow public health advice. We request that you continue to encourage your son/daughter to wash their hands thoroughly and frequently throughout the day. We will be doing the same in school.

Year 12

Our normal 6-lessons per subject timetable will now restart from Monday 22 June, including collaboration. Students are welcome to enter, exit and use the Sixth Form areas as normal. Students may go home for Private Study if that is desired.

We will proceed with the advertised Year 12 sessions for certain subjects this week on Wednesday 17 and Friday 19 June, at the times and in the rooms previously stated. Whilst we no longer need a trial, we believe that these sessions will be a good way to help students to transition back to Sixth Form in school.

Year 10

Year 10 should return to normal lessons, following their normal timetable, from Monday 22 June.

Please ignore the communication sent last week about starting each session in the gym, as the protocols included were to help us manage the social distancing requirements which we expected would be in force but now aren't. Students may enter the school as normal.

Years 9, 8, 7

Please await further information about your year group's start date, and come in only from then. There is a requirement for us to consult with senior colleagues at the Department of Education, Sport and Culture about the timing. We hope it will not be much longer.

Students learning from home

The Minister of Education has been clear that attendance at school is optional until September. We suggest that it will benefit students greatly to choose to attend, particularly now the school experience will be so much closer to normal. Due to their own or family circumstances, some students may be unable to do so. We will seek to support students learning from home as best we can, recognising that our main focus is shifting back to classroom-based teaching and learning.

Other

Initially, school uniform may be worn but will not be compulsory. We suggest that students wear clothes which are easy to wash, following the current public health advice. Please be aware that as we get closer to normality the requirement for school uniform will return.

We have been informed that normal school buses will operate from 22 June. We are planning that the school canteen will re-open from 22 June.

Children of Key Workers remain welcome in school from today by prior agreement, and will re-join their peers once the school is re-opened to their respective year groups.

We look forward to welcoming your son/daughter back to school very soon. If you have questions please contact us.

Yours faithfully



Mr K Winstanley
Headteacher