

15 July 2020

Dear Parent and Student

I write to you today to commence the discussion relating to our full opening of the school in September. As per the government guidance that was released a little over a week ago, it is our intention to open fully and offer a complete curriculum, as close to 'normal' as possible, which includes a PE offer. In order to achieve this as safely as we can, we are implementing a significant number of initiatives and restrictions to reduce the level of risk as far as we are able to.

As you can imagine, it has been a very difficult task to try and come up with a workable strategy, which follows as much of the guidance as possible. The senior team have been meeting regularly to come up with a plan, and I believe that now is an appropriate point to give you some idea of how school is going to look from September onwards.

A full list of measures, namely our Covid-19 Risk Assessment, is available on the school website at: <http://www.qegs.co.uk/files/COVID/Covid-19%20Risk%20Assessment%202020.pdf>. This is a 'live' working document which will be updated as we move forward. I will also be sharing a student guide with you in due course. This will be a simple document with the appropriate level of detail, explaining how we plan to get all our students onto the site safely, with a corresponding map that will detail the assembly location for each individual form (a check list of sorts). Further to this, students will receive a working guide to the measures. This will not have any of the details that are in the plan which will be happening around them, but will concentrate on the key elements for which students need to take a degree of responsibility for in their day-to-day actions around the school. This will be given to students in their first day tutorial session and will form the basis of their induction into what school life will look like moving forward.

While not directly detailed in the plan, several parents have raised the question of uniform, in order that they can effectively prepare for September. We are intending, as things stand, to see all students attending school in full school uniform. Our rationale, as part of the recovery from Covid-19, is to maintain our strong school culture. As a school we want to re-establish that culture as quickly as possible in order to capitalise on this strength and to support our students in the academic excellence that is such a defining feature of the school.

Whilst I am pleased that we have a plan that will work well, it is worth pointing out that many aspects of our day-to-day routines and expectations will alter. I do recognise that this may be challenging for some, but I do believe that the collective effort we have shown up to this point will ensure that we will adjust as quickly as we can, by supporting one another and playing our part in this wider strategy. I would like to thank you all in advance for your resilience as we adapt to this new way of working.

To conclude, this is very much a starting point in terms of our procedures. None of us can know exactly what September will look like from a national perspective. We have endeavoured to implement a plan that will take into account any shifts in national agenda and guidance, while being robust enough to ensure as much safety as we are able, in a challenging landscape. It should be noted that in due course, restrictions will inevitably be eased. Ongoing adjustments will be communicated via the live risk assessment and will form a heading in the weekly Tuesday letter.



I know that you may have further questions following this letter. I am available, as ever, via email and I am in school every day until the end of term, should anyone wish to call me to discuss any aspect of the plan.

In September there will be a lot of new things for both staff and students to get used to. Regardless of what we may think of the government's plan for reopening, it is a plan which we must follow. The restrictions may feel uncomfortable to start with. Many students will feel nervous! But our collective resolve to make this work, and our supportive teams, will ensure we are all as ready as we can be.

Cor unum, via una



Mr G Thompson
Headteacher

