



End of Half Term Update – May 2020

22 May 2020

Dear parents and carers,

As our 5th half term comes to an end and we embark on another school holiday that will be 'out of the norm' for all of us I wanted to ensure you were left feeling fully informed of the current picture at George Spencer Academy. Our school community continues to be very busy, even when the majority of us are working remotely. We have not wavered from our core values or lost sight of our goal to support every child during these uncertain times.

'Face-to-Face' Offer for Year 10 and Year 12

In my previous letter to you on 12th May I wrote of the government's ambition for Year 10 and Year 12 students to have some 'face to face' contact with their teachers before the summer holidays. The government have since set an expectation for this to be in place from 1st June if possible. At George Spencer Academy we believe in looking after our staff and our students and getting it right for them. The suggested start date of the 1st June is not possible for us as a school as we do not want to rush into a re-opening without having adequate time to ensure we have taken every possible step to maximise safety procedures and minimise any health risks to students and staff.

The re-opening of our school will be far from straight forward given the guidance that has been issued on how pupils should be grouped, how mixing should be minimised and the numerous other protective measures. We know that all plans we make regarding students returning to the school site need to be flexible and continually subject to change. I will be writing to parents of Year 10 and Year 12 students during the week beginning 1st June to share our model and the structure of our 'face to face' offer.

We know there will be mixed views and feelings amongst parents and students on returning to the school site and we understand how difficult the decision may be to send your child or not. With this in mind I would like to reassure you that our 'face to face' offer is just that – an offer – there is no pressure from the school for students to attend. It is the parent/carers choice to decide what is right for their child. Our remote learning offer will continue for all year groups, including Years 10 and 12. Our correspondence with Year 10 and Year 12 parents during the week beginning the 1st June will provide details of the offer, how we would ensure the students are as safe as possible on school site, and how parents/carers can inform us if they would like their child to attend.

May half term break

As per our Easter break offer we will continue to be open during the break to provide school-based care for very small numbers of key worker children. All relevant families have been contacted individually regarding the details of the offer.

Well-being support for students

In addition to our Well-being line that we launched in April, the Student Hub has been revamped. The original site has increased in size to include pages on: student well-being with a wealth of resources to ensure all students get the balance right; IT support with guides on how to reset passwords and clear cookies; and more recently a parent page containing resources to support your child, keep them motivated and also keep them safe while learning online. A link to the student hub can be found via the school website or by clicking on this link <https://sites.google.com/george-spencer.notts.sch.uk/studenthub/home>

Staffing change in Year 9

It is with sadness that we say goodbye to a key member of staff if your child is in Year 9. Ms Brown, the Director of Learning for Year 9, will be leaving us at May half term to continue her career at another secondary school within our Trust.

I know Ms Brown had planned to share the news with her year group during an assembly and I know it is with a heavy heart that she leaves them. We have successfully appointed a replacement for Ms Brown who will take up post in September. In the interim Mr Hartley, our Assistant Principal, will pick up the role and oversee the Year 9 cohort. Please feel free to contact him, as you would Ms Brown, via email.

From us all at George Spencer Academy we wish you a restful and peaceful half term break.

Yours sincerely

Mrs H Corbett
Principal