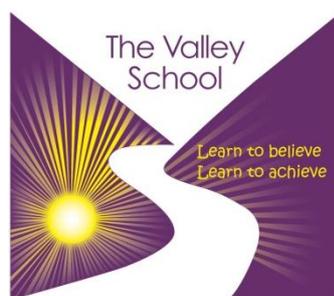


Headteacher:
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Wednesday, 20 May 2020

Dear Parents and Carers,

REF: WELCOMING OUR PUPILS BACK – THE VALLEY MODEL

I am sure that you feel like I do, that an effective vaccine is essential in allowing us to have a future free from the level of anxiety and upheaval that is part of our daily lives at present. However, we know that this may take a considerable amount of time and extensive trials, so we need to work together to meet the physical and mental health needs of our pupils.

Levels of anxiety across the country are at an all-time high and those who have additional needs will find it more difficult than others to manage the lack of normal routine and interactions. You know that we always put a lot of thought and effort into preparing our pupils for the start of a new school year and I want us to work together to do so this year, but the current situation requires even more creativity than normal.

There are key experiences and activities that are part of being a year 11 pupil in The Valley School and the very sudden and abrupt change that happened back in March has robbed our pupils of the “rites of passage” that are so important in our memories in life.

With this in mind, we are inviting all year 11 pupils back to school from Tuesday 2nd June to Friday 5th June. All staff will be in school and this will allow us to create some wonderful moments, like a leavers’ assembly to stream live to all families, a collage of signatures and a year book, videos and songs that will remind them of their time here and will go with them into adulthood. There will be awards, a leavers’ book, leavers’ messages, mementoes, expressive arts projects, performances and the production of permanent artworks. Some performances will be recorded. Pupils will be able to choose which activities to become involved in.

We plan to hold a Prom in the Autumn, linked to the Annual Celebration Evening and we will award their certificates at that point. Currently, teachers are working closely with exam boards to ensure that our pupils get the qualifications they deserve.



Please read the attached additional document, which runs through some of the detail of how we are planning to make this return as safe as possible. Over the next few days, one of the year 11 team of staff will contact you to find out if there is anything more you need to know to help plan for your son or daughter to return.

I fully understand that, as a parent or carer, you are uniquely placed to make the right decision for you and your family and I will respect your decision. I cannot offer you a 100% certainty that these measures will keep you or your family safe, but I am hoping that the risk can be considerably reduced.

Our desire is for our pupils to have a "leaving" experience that is fun, exciting and memorable.

Yours sincerely

Corina Foster
Headteacher