



# Presfield High School & Specialist College

Headteacher: Tony Fay

8/1/21

Dear Parent/Carer

This week we have been able to welcome back students who wished to return to the school. Plans are now in place for next week to accommodate those students who are wishing to attend school. Unfortunately, as previously stated, we are not able to staff all classes and some students are on a part time basis attending for a number of days a week. We have also put students from two classes within the same year together in some cases.

I thank you for your support and understanding in this matter. As always if you need to discuss school provision please ring the school and hopefully either Ms McLoughlin or myself will be able to help.

We are aware that this week there have been some issues with transport and students who were expecting to be picked up were not picked up. We are sending next weeks expected attendance list to Sefton and Lancashire Transport so hopefully this will not be the case next week.

It may come as a surprise to you all but there has been some conflicting information coming from the government over the past few days about who should and who should not be in school. Due to staffing capacity we have unfortunately had to limit students' attendance. This has been based on our risk assessment of need. Whilst I am very aware that the government criteria for school attendance is children of critical workers and vulnerable students, which now includes students who do not have IT provision at home or a quiet place to work. All our students do have a chromebook and we are looking into the possibility of supporting internet access for those in need.

All our students have an ECHP but not all their individual or family needs are equal. We will prioritise school face to face attendance for those in greatest need while trying to ensure that all those students who wish to attend school have some consistent days allocated each week.

During the previous lock downs we believe that many students missed the social interaction of school and we are aware that this is a very important aspect of well being. To try and help to support the students we will be having virtual tutor periods. These will be staggered to avoid buffering as we are unsure if the school internet bandwidth will facilitate everyone being on line at the same time. We are also planning to have social activities within year groups and form groups to help students wellbeing. Timetables will be produced and shared as soon as they have been concluded.

We have been considering and planning for the possibility that this year would see a return to lockdown at some point. From September we moved our in school provision onto Google classroom to enable us to teach remotely and to familiarise the students with this platform. All students have been using google classroom and should be able access the lessons from their chrome books. However; if they are having difficulty please do not hesitate to contact your child's form tutor who will be able to help you.



Student timetables will look different from the previous lockdowns, and whilst we appreciate how difficult it can be for our students to work from home, we will be monitoring engagement. Where engagement is sporadic we will work with you and your child to find ways of increasing engagement. We want our students to continue to make good academic and social progress.

The government have agreed (thanks Marcus Rashford) to providing free school meal vouchers to those who previously received them and may be isolating at home. We will be in contact with the vouchers as soon as we have processed them. Within school we are now providing hot dinners to those who wish to have them, but your child can bring a packed lunch should they prefer.

Following Public Health advice we are continuing to ensure the rooms are well ventilated. To reduce the risk of spreading the virus the windows and doors will be open where possible. Whilst we have the heating on in school it can still be quite cold. Please make sure your child has a warm coat and/or jumper that they can wear in class.

If you have any queries or wish to discuss our school provision please contact the school to do so.

Once again thank you for your ongoing support. Please stay safe and look after yourselves and your families at this difficult time.

Tony