

ARE/JWA

1 June 2020

Dear Parent/ Carer

Following my letter dated 20 May 2020 I wanted to send you a further update. The government have now issued further guidance relating to school provision from the 15 June 2020. In addition, direction has been given from Sheffield City Council and the Director of Public Health in relation to the Governments 5 tests and the proposed reopening of schools.

Councillor Abtisam Mohamed, Cabinet Member for Education and Skills, Sheffield City Council has written to all schools. The full letter is attached for your information. The advice we have been given is as follows;

“Whilst nationally the Government is requesting that schools and nurseries start to increase the number of pupils attending over the coming weeks, in light of the Sheffield Public Health advice we do not yet feel assured that it is the right time and are advising our schools and nurseries to delay increasing numbers until the 15th June 2020.”

You may have also seen the new government guidance related to schools providing some face-to-face delivery to supplement remote learning from 15 June 2020. This provision can be for a quarter of the year 10 or 12 cohort at any one time with remote learning still the predominant form of education delivery. An extract from the Department for Education guidance is included below:

“Expectations from 15 June 2020:

From 15 June, secondary schools are able to offer face-to-face support for a quarter of the year 10 and 12 cohort at any one time. Alongside this the government is asking secondary schools to:

- continue providing full-time provision for vulnerable pupils in all year groups (including year 10 and year 12)
- continue providing full-time provision for children of critical workers in all year groups (including year 10 and year 12)
- provide some face-to-face support to supplement the remote education of year 10 and year 12 pupils, with a clear expectation that remote education will continue to be the predominant form of education delivery for these year groups and that this should be of high quality
- continue to use best endeavours to support all other pupils remaining at home, making use of the available remote education support and ensuring a high quality offer”

The advice reinforces the UTCs decision to work on the development of our online provision. From today staff have returned to the UTC to plan and produce resources to support future subject delivery beginning from Monday 8 June 2020. Staff will continue with the current online learning provision for our students as per our plans communicated to you on the 20 May 2020.

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Online delivery via Teams will predominantly focus on year 10 and year 12. We are developing provision for year 9 over the coming weeks in line with the sessions being piloted by the maths department.

Tomorrow, Mr Cocken, Vice Principal will circulate a student guide to accessing online lessons through Teams and a weekly timetable of sessions from 8 June 2020

From the 15 June 2020, we will carefully consider the ability to offer some face to face delivery for subjects at the UTC to support key students who will benefit from this additional opportunity. These sessions will have limited numbers based on the above guidance relating to a quarter of the cohort.

Students who cannot engage with online provision through Teams or require additional support will be contacted regarding this opportunity. There is no expectation that parents have to send students to the UTC for such sessions, as the online virtual curriculum will fully support the majority of students without the need to travel to the UTCs.

As mentioned in my previous letter, if you are experiencing any IT issues with accessing online delivery please let the UTC know during this week by contacting admin@utcsheffield.org.uk, if you have not done so already.

We will continue to review the situation on a weekly basis taking into account the latest Government and Sheffield City Council advice. All of us wish to return all students to full time education at the earliest opportunity when it is safe to do so.

Thank you for your patience and understanding.

Yours sincerely

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'A Reynolds', written over a light grey grid background.

Mr A Reynolds
Principal