

Chief Executive
Elizabeth Horne CBE

Abbey Hill Academy Sixth Form
Ketton Road
Stockton-On-Tees
TS19 8BU
Tel: 01642 677113
Fax: 01642 679198
Email: abbeyhill@horizonstrust.org.uk
www.horizonstrust.org.uk
Kathryn Thompson
Principal

July 2020

Dear Parent/Carer

The last few months have been very challenging for the whole Nation and consequently the Education Sector has had to adapt and implement enormous changes to the way that young people have received their education programme. I know from the comments made during the weekly Welfare Calls that you have received from staff at Abbey Hill Sixth Form, that you have appreciated the providing of our students with regular work packs and the general support from “keeping in touch”.

As we see the Government guidelines relating to the spread of Covid19 slowly begin to ease and as we approach the end of this academic year, I’m sure your thoughts will be turning to the education provision at Abbey Hill Sixth Form from next September. This remains a complicated picture that will continue to be influenced by Government Health Guidance, but I thought that I would share with you our plans based on the most recent Government guidance.

Our intention is to offer a core curriculum based around the statutory elements of the Post 16 programme of study, namely; English Language (Reading/Literacy), Maths, PSD/IT and Science. These subjects will be delivered over a 20 hour week, 9.00am – 2.00pm Monday to Thursday, with additional learning opportunities being available as and when required. Social Distancing measures will be met, with students being taught in safe “teaching bubbles” of no more than 8 students, each bubble being based on our current assessment and progress data. Taking into account the over-arching principal of “Stay Alert and Control the Virus”, we are returning to as close as “normal” as is safe for both students and staff with some modifications of current college routines. For example, students will be allowed to keep their mobile phones in their possession but will be required to turn them off fully during teaching periods. A more detailed outline of this teaching model will be posted onto our college website towards the end of the summer holiday, allowing you to help prepare our students for their return on Wednesday 2 September 2020.

Finally, I would like to take this opportunity to thank you for your understanding and support during these difficult months. As I begin my maternity leave at the end of this academic year and temporarily pass the leadership of the Sixth Form to Paul Steele (Acting Principal), Paul Barton (Vice Principal) and Steve Cropper (Assistant Vice Principal), I have confidence in this support continuing so that future challenges can be met in partnership.

Yours sincerely

K. Thompson

Kathryn Thompson

