



## THE LONDON NAUTICAL SCHOOL

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Friday 29<sup>th</sup> May 2020

Dear Families,

I do hope you have enjoyed the half term break and managed to find some time to relax, and enjoy the fine weather. As we enter the final term of the school year, I am writing to outline our response and planning to meet the government's ambition that secondary schools begin a limited re-opening to those students in years 10 and 12 from Monday 15th June.

### What the government has said

There has been much that is unclear in the government statements and guidance, with the original dates stating that secondary schools, like primary schools, would open from Monday 1st June. However, on Sunday evening and again yesterday, it was revealed that the return date for secondary schools has been pushed back to Monday 15th June. The following details were also outlined:

- The five tests have been met and therefore, the government have determined that the potential risk is low enough for schools to open to more students beyond those currently in our special provision;
- In our school this will apply to students in **years 10 and 12 only**;
- The government has asked schools to plan for year 10 and 12 students to have "*face to face contact with teachers to support their online learning*,"
- There is no expectation that year 10 and 12 (or indeed any other year group) will return to full-time learning in school this side of the summer holidays.

### How we are responding

As we have previously communicated, senior staff and leaders at LNS have been working together to respond to these announcements. I have been working with staff at the school on two, interlinked pieces of work:

**Firstly**, in accordance with DfE guidance, we have conducted a thorough Risk Assessment relating to a partial re-opening of the school to year 10 and 12 students. This has been a very detailed process identifying risks and the actions we are currently taking to reduce those risks. The range of areas we have explored include:

- Risks to staff and students of contracting Covid-19 infection through attending school with an increased number of people;
- Staffing availability to effectively teach and safeguard students;
- Risks around student movement in and out of the building and our ability to implement social distancing;
- Risks to students and families on the journey to school;
- The ability to implement an effective cleaning regime;
- The availability of appropriate PPE;
- The impact of re-opening on the workload of staff who will continue to manage on-line learning.

Our Risk Assessment document is robust and is being continuously updated. It must be remembered that, as in every aspect of life, risk can never be eliminated, only reduced.

**Secondly**, we have been developing a plan for how we might deliver face to face contact to support online learning. Please note that this is very provisional and in outline form at this stage. Our remote learning provision will remain our key form of learning delivery.

**Phase 1 (Monday 15th - 19th June) : Orientation, Academic Mentoring and Wellbeing:** During the first week, students will be invited into school for a review of their remote learning, support their wellbeing, a walk through of all safety precautions essential to our reopening, and an opportunity to discuss plans for increasing face-to-face learning.

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**Phase 2 Face-to-face lessons (Year 10 only):** From the second week onwards, students will be in school for one morning per week. Details of our 'face to face' timetable will be shared with you shortly. Our main method of teaching and learning will continue to be online and these face-to-face lessons will supplement this learning. Students will be taught in small classes of no more than 8 students (in order for us to implement social distancing). We are planning that students will remain in their class groups for the duration of their time in school and, as far as possible, we are also planning to ensure that their teachers are consistent. Further guidance and updates including; timings and updates to our behaviour policy will be shared with you next week.

**Phase 2 Face-to-face lessons (Year 12 only):** From the second week onwards, students will be invited in for a face to face lesson in each of their three subjects. This will be subject to teacher availability. Students will be taught in small classes of no more than 12 students (in order for us to implement social distancing).

We will continue to work hard on our plan, and will provide further updates over the next two weeks with the anticipation that Phase One will begin on 15<sup>th</sup> June. There will also need to be flexibility within our planning and if the general situation improves, we may look to increase the amount of 'face to face' sessions available each week.

### **Responding to this information**

Parents and Carers are asked to consider their own response to this outline plan. When schools are directed to re-open there will be an expectation for year 10s and 12s to be in school, however, the government has made it clear that non-attendance will not be sanctioned or followed up in the way we would normally do so. We would urge all families to consider assessing the risks to your child, and to your family, when they return to school. In addition to the outline plans I have been able to share with you, you may also wish to consider:

- The impact to their health and wellbeing of NOT being in school;
- The ability and likelihood of your child being able to abide by strict rules to enforce social distancing and safety within school;
- The reported greater impact of Covid-19 infection on those from the BAME community;
- The implications of your child's journey to and from school and the likelihood of them being able to follow social distancing whilst on that journey.

We must emphasise that when students are invited back to school, they must not attend if:

- They are exhibiting the symptoms of Covid-19 infection;
- They are isolating because a member of their household has developed the Covid-19 infection;
- They have been advised to shield by the medical authorities.

In these cases, we ask parents and carers to inform the school as soon as possible. This will help the school to risk assess any potential cross-infection and take any necessary action. Covid-19 testing continues to be expanded and now everyone, including those under the age of 5, who have Covid-19 symptoms are able to have a test. This means that those who are uncertain about their symptoms can now quickly gain some clarity. For more information about testing please visit: [www.gov.uk/guidance/coronavirus-covid-19-getting-tested](http://www.gov.uk/guidance/coronavirus-covid-19-getting-tested)

I appreciate that this letter has contained a great deal of information, but I hope it has been helpful to you.

I will write again next week with further details of our plans moving forward.

Yours faithfully,



Michael Schofield

Headteacher