



# RANGE HIGH SCHOOL

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Head Teacher: Mr M. McGarry MA, PGCE, NPQH

22<sup>nd</sup> May 2020

Dear All

I hope this letter finds you well as another half-term comes to a close in these strange times we are all living through.

As you may well be aware, there is a lot of speculation, opinion and conflicting advice and guidance around the re-opening of our schools. The government, Professional Associations, members of the scientific body advising the DFE and now the Local Authority, all seem to be on different pages when it comes to agreement around a common strategy. This has placed a great deal of extra anxiety on leadership teams and governing boards in all schools across the country. It is simply not possible to accommodate a way forward that will seem satisfactory to the whole school community. In our own context, a recent survey amongst our Y10 and Y12 families indicated a mixed picture in terms of their readiness to send their children back to school from the 1<sup>st</sup> June, some clearly wanting to get back straight away whilst others saying that they would not send their children in at all as things currently stand.

Here at school, we have been working hard on plans and risk assessments to ensure that our site is as safe as it possibly can be, when we do start to welcome some students back in a phased and controlled way. Following wide spread consultation with all of our local Formby Schools, we have agreed a general proposal on how we will proceed following the half-term holiday; this also comes on the back of guidance from Sefton LA indicating that they feel a 1<sup>st</sup> June re-opening of schools is too soon and that the 15<sup>th</sup> would be a better date, to be able to ensure everyone's health and safety. This position has been accepted at a recent, extraordinary meeting of our Governing Body. You will find in Annex A below, a broad outline of the proposal as to how we will operate in the final half-term of the year. Again, this could well be subject to change as national guidance changes. A particular date to note will be May 28<sup>th</sup> when the government are scheduled to announce their next round of amendments as to how the country should proceed. Nearer the time of re-opening, I will publish our risk-assessment documentation, in an attempt to assure everyone that all necessary steps have been taken to make the school site as safe as possible, before having more staff and students back in. In Annex B below, Mr Dolly has laid out how we are aiming to enhance our online provision for the whole school during the final part of the year. Thank you to everyone who has fed back to us in our recent surveys, we are listening to what you have to say and will do our best to make improvements and enhancements where possible.

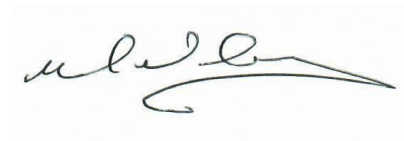
Next week is the half-term holiday and school will be closed on the Bank Holiday Monday. We have shared provision between ourselves and Formby High School for the rest of the week for our Key Worker children. Online work will not be set next week and I encourage all of our students to try and take a break from computer screens! Work will be set again from the 1<sup>st</sup> June and as I keep reminding everyone, if you have a difficulty or a problem with a particular subject or topic, please get in touch with your teacher via email and they will get back to you as soon as they can.

Continued.....

I hope you enjoy reading our latest newsletter which was issued electronically yesterday. It is fantastic to see so many of our students helping and supporting the local and wider community - well done to all of you. To all of our young people, please continue to respect the rules around social distancing when outdoors and make sure you are doing all you can to support and help at home. I look forward to seeing increasing numbers of you in school as time goes on.

I hope you all enjoy the Bank Holiday weekend and the half-term break such as it is.

Best wishes

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'M. McGarry', with a long, sweeping underline that extends to the right.

Mr McGarry  
Headteacher

## **ANNEX A**

All of the following is subject to the rigorous risk assessment and planning that is currently taking place. It will also be subject to further guidance and instruction from the DFE and the LA. As you will appreciate, it is difficult to plan anything at the moment but please be assured that the site is being meticulously planned to ensure it is as safe as possible before welcoming larger numbers of staff and students back on site.

### **Week beginning 1<sup>st</sup> June:**

We continue to offer the on-site provision to our Key Worker children and we will encourage through phone calls, more of our vulnerable children to attend. This will continue for the first two weeks of the half-term. We are reviewing our provision at the moment and will aim to make some improvements – please see Annex B information from Mr Dolly.

### **Week beginning 15<sup>th</sup> June:**

All of the above continues. In addition, we will schedule a one-to-one meeting with our Y12 students and their Form Tutors. Further details on this will be released in due course, but we will have the opportunity to discuss each student's wellbeing, their access to online work and how we will aim to support them in the final part of this year in preparation for Year 13.

### **Week beginning 22<sup>nd</sup> June:**

Y10 invited to come to school in small, House groups for a morning. Again, we will focus on pastoral and wellbeing activities and some work on how students have been doing with their online work.

### **Week beginning 29<sup>th</sup> June:**

We will aim to offer some sort of limited timetable to small groups in both Y10 and Y12 for the remaining three weeks to ensure all students get at least some subject input prior to the Summer Holiday.

## **ANNEX B**

The purpose of the letter is to explain our approach to Remote Home Learning from June 1st.

Many thanks to all parents and pupils for completing our surveys recently - your comments were extremely useful and have informed our decisions moving forwards. The parental survey remains open until Wednesday 27<sup>th</sup> May if you still wish to participate.

The feedback so far has been very positive; I would like to thank you for your continued support and for your sons', and daughters' continued resilience. The two biggest issues that we found from our surveys are that some pupils can become anxious about structuring their independent work and that they, unsurprisingly, miss contact with their teachers. These are areas we will be doing our best to address over the next half term.

All students continue to be able to contact their teachers via school email addresses and we have asked teachers to remind students of this via Class Charts. In addition, many teachers have also begun to use the Class Charts 'announcements' feature to target specific groups of students and parents. Please check announcements on a regular basis.

Over the next half-term, we will look at ways to develop our capacity to be able to offer some opportunities for face to face contact, through virtual drop-ins and live online learning opportunities where possible.

The ability for parents to award merit points on Class Charts has proven very popular as have our 'Lockdown Lotto' Reward Point Raffle draws. As parents, you can now award merits for resilience, effort, daily exercise and acts of kindness.

### **Year 7 and 8**

We will continue to set approximately 30 minutes of learning for each lesson. This equates to two and a half hours per day.

All work will continue to be set on **Class Charts**. Pupils should check their account on a daily basis.

### **Year 9**

Work will continue as it does for Years 7 and 8. As the next half term progresses we hope, however, to shift the emphasis to provide a bridge to their GCSEs. This will allow them to continue to focus on core subjects like English, Maths and Science but to provide some transition work that will help them to hit the ground running in their options choices. At this point, all other subjects will cease lessons and pupils will only access work from the subject areas that they have opted for at GCSE.

This work will **not necessarily reflect GCSE subject content** but would be a "warm up" for GCSE.

### **Year 10 and 12**

Each lesson will continue to be approximately 45 minutes long and all work will continue to be set on **Class Charts**. Pupils should check their account on a daily basis.

In addition, we will be organising some virtual walk through videos of what the site will look like and what to expect when pupils do start to return to school before the end of the year.

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**Year 11**

Please continue to access the Sixth Form transition activities provided on Class Charts.

**Year 13**

There is still plenty of support available from our Sixth Form Team and our Careers Service - please get in touch if you need us.

We understand that remote learning is not the same as being in school with a teacher and other adults to support and help, but it is important that pupils do as much of the work that they can and ask for help and support when they need it! Please tell your child(ren) not to worry if they can't complete every single piece of work set, just encourage them to try to do what they can. Their best is good enough!

We know that these are far from easy times for many families and would like to thank you for your help and support.

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to be 'T Dolly', written in a cursive style with a long horizontal stroke at the bottom.

Mr T Dolly  
Deputy Headteacher