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Dear Parent/Carer,

I hope you are all well and that all of our students have had a productive week as they continue to progress their learning and work from home in these unprecedented times.

Although I fully appreciate that for our Key Stage 3 students this week will have felt very similar to those that have gone before it, it has actually been a very special and significant week for the school as we have welcomed back students into the building for the very first time since the school 'closed' back in March. Nearly all of our Year 12 students have spent a day in school this week catching up with their teachers, reviewing the learning that they have completed at home over the last few months and preparing for the 'remote' learning that they will be undertaking at home over the next week or so. The building has felt like a very different, much happier and more vibrant place and staff have not been able to hide their delight at seeing their students again and being able to support them 'face-to-face'.

As always, we have been very impressed with the maturity shown by our Year 12 students this week, who have very quickly adapted to the ways of working required in the building to keep everybody safe. We look forward to seeing them again next week and to seeing our Year 10 students for the first time since March, also for one day each. Nothing, no matter how good the powerpoint, electronic worksheet or any other possible form of 'remote' learning, can come close to the effectiveness of working and talking with students in person. What has quickly become clear is that these 'face-to-face' sessions are just as useful for teachers as they are for our students. They are allowing us to gauge the knowledge and understanding gained over recent months and hence to begin to reflect upon the curriculum plans and teaching approaches that will be most effective moving forwards to enable students to 'catch-up' on their learning as quickly and effectively as possible.

### **'Vulnerable Student and Key Worker Children School'**

As workplaces re-open and parents inevitably return to work, please do remember that eligible students have an entitlement to attend our 'childcare' provision, on either a full- or part-time basis and with very little notice required. A key aspect of this provision is to provide facilities and support to enable the students to follow the remote learning we are providing via ShowMyHomework and so students attending this provision follow the same 'curriculum' as their peers working at home. Please do contact us via [contactportal@helsbyhigh.org.uk](mailto:contactportal@helsbyhigh.org.uk) for further information on this provision.

### **'Year 10 and 12 Supported Home Learning School'**

As described above, we are very much looking forward to the return of our Year 10 students next week and I know that both students and parents will have received much information about this during the course of this week. Please can I ask that students read carefully through the information provided to ensure that they are as informed as possible in advance regarding arrangements in school, which will be explained further in the Dining Hall on arrival. Please can I also remind students not to gather in groups on the way to or from school and also of the Cheshire West and Chester requirement that face-coverings are worn on all of our buses, both on public and contracted services.

I hope that the information provided to both students and parents, and also the first-hand experience of our Year 12 students this week, has provided reassurance that the school has taken every possible appropriate precaution to prioritise the safety of both students and staff upon opening more widely to students. An extensive Covid-19 Risk Assessment has been implemented, copies of which are available on request. This Risk Assessment has been quality assured by members of the school's Governing Body, some of whom have professional expertise in this area. They concluded that preparations went above and beyond good practice in ensuring a safe environment for our students and staff.

### **'Remote Learning School'**

Thank you once again for all the support which I know will have been provided over the last week with students' learning at home – and well done to all of our students for their resilience continuing to work so hard in such a different and challenging way. Although the vast majority of staff are now working in the school building much more than they were previously, which may on occasions result in a longer wait for responses to queries if they are working with Year 10 and 12 students in school, we are still completely committed to supporting our students' remote learning as much as we possibly can. Hence students should continue to feel free to contact their teachers via either the ShowMyHomework messaging facility or direct e-mail contact. Any other questions are also welcome and should be directed to the relevant Progress & Pastoral Leader in the first instance:

Years 7 & 8: Mrs Turner, [year7admin@helsbyhigh.org.uk](mailto:year7admin@helsbyhigh.org.uk) and [year8admin@helsbyhigh.org.uk](mailto:year8admin@helsbyhigh.org.uk)

Year 9: Mr Shelton, [year9admin@helsbyhigh.org.uk](mailto:year9admin@helsbyhigh.org.uk)

Year 10: Dr Ravetz, [year10admin@helsbyhigh.org.uk](mailto:year10admin@helsbyhigh.org.uk)

Year 12: Mrs Robinson, [6thformadmin@helsbyhigh.org.uk](mailto:6thformadmin@helsbyhigh.org.uk)

Please do continue to keep in touch and to let us know if we can assist in any way at any time. As I wrote last week, hopefully the gradual return of Year 12 and now Year 10 students will provide hope and encouragement to all of our students that their return to school is now not too far away. I am sure that you will all be aware of an increasing national demand for information regarding how schools may be operating in September and as soon as we receive any information or guidance in that regard we will let you know. In the meantime I hope you all continue to keep safe and well and enjoy a weekend which thankfully is forecast to be significantly more pleasant weather-wise than the week that has preceded it.

Very best wishes,

Martin Hill  
Headteacher