

Monday 18th May

Dear Parents and Carers

Re: Phased re-opening of Weymouth & Portland secondary schools for Year 10 & 12 students

We are writing to you as the five secondary school leaders in the Weymouth & Portland area.

The schools and academies represented by this letter are All Saints CE Academy, Atlantic Academy Portland, Budmouth Academy Weymouth, The Compass and Wey Valley Academy.

As you know, we are all facing an unprecedented national crisis at this time in terms of confronting and defeating coronavirus.

The government has recently advised schools to offer some face to face support for Year 10 and Year 12 students in a phased reopening. We are committed to offering provision as soon as it is safe to do so but need to prepare for this in a measured way. There are many practical and operational factors to consider before the phased reopening can occur. Each school has its own context and therefore a different set of circumstances to navigate.

We feel that it will be most helpful for our area that we work together as Headteachers and Principals so that the wider community has a consistent message.

We have therefore committed to do so in terms of the phased reopening of schools for Year 10 and Year 12. We will continue to meet and discuss a wide range of matters together including: curriculum provision, class ratios, ongoing public health concerns, the impact of absence on staffing and our remote learning systems.

We are not in a position to provide a date for the Weymouth and Portland schools to formally re-open yet, but have agreed that we will work as a group of schools rather than individually when it comes to identifying a date in due course. We will notify all parents and carers of this date at the earliest possible opportunity but please be aware that this decision will be taken after the national review of the impact of the initial lifting of the lockdown restrictions. This date is currently set for 28th May, at which time the UK government will update the country with the latest information about coronavirus.

When we do identify a date, this will not be for all students in Years 10 & 12 to return at the same time. It is also important to be clear that this will not be a return to “normal” education in the first instance. Further details will follow in due course once further national guidance has been released.

We hope that you understand our reasoning here and appreciate that working collaboratively is vital at this unprecedented time.

Finally, we would like to take this opportunity to thank you and your families for your continued support. We trust you are staying safe and well.

Yours faithfully



Mr J Cornish
Principal
All Saints



Mrs L Bishop
Principal
Atlantic



Mr D Herbert
Principal
Budmouth



Ms A Glazier
Headteacher
The Compass



Mr R Russell
Principal
Wey Valley