

5th June 2020

Dear Parents,

Re: Year 10 return to school

Balcarras is hoping to open in a limited manner for Year 10 and Year 12 from 15th June.

The school has done its best to follow all of the guidance issued by government. However, it will be important that pupils are alert to the guidance and do their best to minimise risk. Parents are also key to minimising risk, by encouraging pupils to behave sensibly and follow the restrictions.

Guidance about **Podz, times** and **rooms** will be sent to pupils via the VLE.

We would politely request that parents help by:

- Ensuring that every pupil has a full pencil case every day, with spares, so there is never a need to share or lend equipment.
- Include in the pencil case a glue stick and safety scissors, so that these do not need to be handed out by teachers.
- It would be very useful if every pupil could always carry with them a bottle of **hand sanitizer** and a packet of **disinfectant wipes**. While the school will do its best to provide these where possible, it is still extremely difficult for schools to access this equipment and suppliers are still very short of stock. If parents can help with this it would be enormously helpful.

We have tried to stagger the day, bringing different year groups in at different times. In line with the guidance, only one quarter of the year group will be on site on any day. Year 10 pupils can arrive any time between 8:45am and the start of lessons at 9:00am. Pupils must go straight to their classrooms and not socialise or mix in the playground. We would be grateful if parents could encourage pupils not to walk close together and not to walk in groups, as this can be very worrying for the vulnerable neighbours of the school. At the end of lessons, pupils must go straight home and not hang around in the park or at the shops. Parents will be vital to making this strategy successful.

Each Pod will be allocated a classroom and pupils will stay in the same classroom for all lessons, to avoid movement around school. Pupils will also be asked to always sit at the same desk in their classroom for every lesson. The entrances to the classrooms are indicated below and we ask that pupils stick to these routes.

Each day pupils will have three core lessons (Mathematics, English and Science). The option subjects will continue to set work via the VLE.

The same rules for behaviour will apply as they always have at Balcarras. Phones are not allowed to be used while on the school site. The classrooms will be thoroughly cleaned every day when lessons have finished. The canteen and tuck shops will not be open, so pupils will need to bring

their own snacks. For good hygiene, it would be good for each pupil to bring sufficient water for the day.

Pupils can come to school in Mufti.

We kindly ask that parents do NOT come onto the school site. Reception will be available to take phone calls if you have a concern and we will always try to respond to e-mails promptly. This is far safer than face to face contact where possible.

If a pupil feels ill at the start of the day then the advice is not to come in to school. We would like to absolutely minimise the risk to all our pupils. If a pupil feels ill during the day, then the school will phone parents and ask the pupil to go home. Normally we try to keep pupils in school with minor ailments, but in these unprecedented times, extra caution is required.

This is both a worrying time and an exciting time for all. Balcarras has done its best to minimise risk to both pupils and staff, while trying to find a good balance of providing face-to-face education for the key exam year groups. The support from parents has been exceptional over the last few weeks and we look forward to welcoming back safely some pupils to our school.

Yours sincerely,

N. A. Baxter

Mr. Baxter

P.S. The schedule of lessons is below

Lesson Schedule

Week 1			Week 2		Week 3		Week 4		Week 5	
		Year 10		Year 10		Year 10		Year 10		Year 10
		9:00-12:15		9:00-12:15		9:00-12:15		9:00-12:15		9:00-12:15
Monday	15-Jun	P1, Q1, R1, S1	22-Jun	P1, Q1, R1, S1	29-Jun	P1, Q1, R1, S1	06-Jul	P1, Q1, R1, S1	13-Jul	P1, Q1, R1, S1
Tuesday	16-Jun	P2, Q2, R2, S2	23-Jun	P2, Q2, R2, S2	30-Jun	P2, Q2, R2, S2	07-Jul	P2, Q2, R2, S2	14-Jul	P2, Q2, R2, S2
Wednesday	17-Jun	P3, Q3, R3, S3	24-Jun	P3, Q3, R3, S3	01-Jul	P3, Q3, R3, S3	08-Jul	P3, Q3, R3, S3	15-Jul	P3, Q3, R3, S3
Thursday	18-Jun	P4, Q4, R4	25-Jun	P4, Q4, R4	02-Jul	P4, Q4, R4	09-Jul	P4, Q4, R4	16-Jul	P4, Q4, R4
Friday	19-Jun	P1, Q1, R1, S1	26-Jun	P2, Q2, R2, S2	03-Jul	P3, Q3, R3, S3	10-Jul	P4, Q4, R4	17-Jul	tbd