

# Winterhill School

Winterhill School – Founder of Leaders in Learning Multi Academy Trust

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## Potential phased reopening of school for Y10 students June 2020

Dear Parents / Carers

As we continue to experience life in lockdown, I hope that you and your family are safe and well. I would like to begin by reiterating that, throughout this challenging time, we have been extremely proud of the resilience Winterhill students have shown, and appreciative of the support we have been given from parents / carers.

Of course, quite a lot has happened over recent days; the Government announced the potential phased reopening of schools from June 2020 with secondary schools reopening to Y10 students, in some capacity, before the summer. As a result, I am writing to you to provide some reassurance and explain our current position and thinking.

It would be normal to expect that some of you will be feeling a sense of anxiety about the many 'What ifs' related to the current situation, not least of all the pressure of having to make a decision about sending your child to school. However, as with all decisions we have made, the safety and well-being of our community are our priority. As a school, we will always act with in the best interests of our students and their families.

The decisions we are making are based on advice nationally and locally, as well as considering a range of evidence from respected and trusted sources. In addition, your views and feelings are crucial in making a success of any return to school, and so any reopening plans will reflect our primary concern of keeping everyone safe. Once everyone is clearer about the guidance around reopening, we will be able to share more details with you.

However, I can assure you that some of the precautions we'll be taking include:

- Limiting class sizes
- Staggering break/lunch times, as well as the start/end of the school day
- Maintaining distancing in and out of classrooms
- Increased cleaning
- Regular hand washing and sanitising
- Keeping students and staff with coronavirus symptoms at home

In the meantime, the school is still open only for vulnerable students and the children of critical workers, and our online 'classrooms' will continue as normal via Google Classroom.

I will write to you again in early June with more details of our plans for reopening to Y10. In the meantime, take care and stay safe.

Kind regards, Mr Rhodes