

Orchard School Bristol

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Headteacher: Mrs Julia Hinchliffe MA (Hons), MA, NPQH

29th May 2020

Dear parents and carers

Further opening of Orchard School from 15 June

As I explained in my last letter to you, I am writing to provide an update on our further opening plans. We have now received the guidance from the government for secondary wider opening for Year 10s, and yesterday the Prime Minister confirmed that the required 5 measures have been met.

Behind the scenes in school we have been doing a significant amount of planning for different scenarios, so it is a relief to finally have the guidance in place. The priority for all our plans is the safety and wellbeing of our students and staff, and therefore we have been working on detailed risk assessments, increasing hygiene facilities and amending operating procedures alongside learning and pastoral work.

The further opening details are as follows:

For children in the critical keyworker categories *, children with social workers, children with EHCP plans in Years 7 - 11

The school remains open every day from 8.30pm to 2.50pm for self-study. Parents will need to book in their child on a weekly basis, so we know which days to expect them in and can plan our staffing accordingly. Students are required to bring a packed lunch and drink, as we do not have other food facilities available at present.

The booking form is [here](#).

Please note, this provision is only for children in the categories above. The government guidance is that we only provide spaces for these children, even if other parents are working.

*Critical keyworkers are defined [here](#).

For Year 7, 8 and 9 students

Students will continue to learn at home through term 6. Students should be accessing their Google classrooms/Gmail on a daily basis. Home learning packs are being sent weekly to students who are not able to access online working or who have requested learning in this way. If your child is now unable to access work online, and you want to request a home learning pack, please contact info@osb.school



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For Year 10 students

We are opening up the school on a rota basis from 15 June for all young people in Year 10. Year 10 parents and children will receive an email informing them which day they have been allocated to. A maximum of one quarter of the students would come in to school each morning. The learning in school will not look like a normal timetable. Students will be in one room, with one small group of students, socially distanced, with one teacher for the morning session. Students will go home at lunch, so we will not be changing any Free School Meal vouchers – these will remain in place for eligible Year 10 students too.

As an example, if your child is allocated to a Tuesday group, then we would like them to be in school on Tuesday 16th, Tuesday 23rd, Tuesday 30th June and Tuesday 7th July. On the first Tuesday, they could be with their maths teacher reviewing the work they've done to date, going through any difficulties and setting up work for the next few weeks. The next week, they might be with their English teacher, and so on.

We are following government expectations where the majority of provision for Year 10 students would still be remote/home learning, but providing an opportunity for some face to face contact with teaching staff. We would hope to see all of our Year 10 students, but it is important you know that parent/carer legal responsibility for school attendance has been temporarily suspended, which means that no parents will be fined if they choose to keep their children at home during this time.

Next week I will send out to Year 10 students/parents more details of their grouping, and we will be asking parents/carers to complete a form to let us know likely attendance.

I hope you are keeping safe and well.

Yours sincerely

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Julia Hinchliffe". The signature is written in a cursive, flowing style.

Julia Hinchliffe,
Headteacher