



18 June 2020

Dear Parents and Carers

Information about planning for the future

I last wrote to you on 20th May. Since that time we have been able to take an increased number of pupils back to school. However, we are all mindful that there are a large number of pupils who have not been able to return as yet, and we are making plans for how and when that will be possible, based on government guidance and safety information.

I want to tell you about some of the arrangements we are making for the end of the school year and those for the beginning of the next academic year in September. Beginnings and endings are so important and we want to get this right for our pupils and your families.

Pupils who are moving on

Many of our current Year 11 and Sixth Form students are moving on to the next stage of their lives. They officially leave Westfield on Friday 26th June. We are very sad that their last months at Westfield have been so disrupted but we are making plans to say a proper goodbye when the time is right. They will receive a 'Golden Ticket' with the promise of a prom in the future. For now we wish them all the very best for their futures and thank them for their contribution to Westfield.

Pupils who are moving up

We are currently making the final decisions about class groups for the new academic year. Some children will remain with their current teacher but many will be moving up to their next class, with some primary pupils moving into the Secondary department and Year 11 moving to the Sixth Form. We know that some pupils will be really excited about their new class, but others will be anxious about the change, especially if they haven't been in school for several months. We are planning some transition events, with virtual 'Moving On' parties to say goodbye to their current groups, and virtual 'welcome' parties to say hello to their new class group. Your child's class teacher will be in contact with you before the end of term, and these online meetings will likely take place in the last week of term.

Pupils who are moving in to Westfield

We are also preparing for the arrival of all the new pupils who will be joining Westfield in September. We know that this is a big step and we have made plans to support them with this. There will be an online meeting for new parent carers on 30th June (information has been sent out to them) and we will be doing some online hellos and 'garden gate' visits with our new pupils. We will also invite them to the 'welcome' parties for new classes.





Westfield Arts College



To help with welcoming our new pupils to Westfield we have made two videos which are available on our website, along with some other transition information.

<https://westfield.dorset.sch.uk/information-for-pupils/>

Welcoming pupils back to school

The number of pupils we can have in school is dictated by the government guidance of 2m social distancing which places a limit on the number of pupils we can accommodate safely. We have been steadily increasing this number and now have 70 pupils (a third of our total number) who are in school for some of the time. We have tried hard to respond to each individual request, but I know that some of you will be very frustrated that your child has not yet been able to return. As soon as guidance changes we will be able to respond and include more pupils.

In the meantime our teachers and TAs have been working hard to get resource packs out and contacting children working from home. Some have been involved in live online lessons which have worked very well. As always, if you have concerns or questions please make contact with your child's class teacher.

Planning for the new school year

Unfortunately, and frustratingly for everyone, we don't yet know what the situation will be for schools in September. We are making plans based on different scenarios, but most importantly we are planning for all children to return to school although this may not be full time. I will let you know more about this before the end of term when the situation will hopefully be a bit clearer.

Holiday activities

Dorset Council are working on plans to provide some short break activities for families over the summer, although the difficulty for schools opening to a wider group of pupils is the same for every other type of provision. We will share more information about this with you when it is available.

I will write to you again with updates to this information. Thank you all for your support.

Best wishes

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Head Teacher



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