



BEESTON HALL SCHOOL

23rd June 2020

Dear Parents,

Phased Return of Year 8

This was not how it was supposed to be. You will all have been looking on with exasperation at the unfolding drama of government advice regarding phased returns to school. We have been driven by the competing attention of such guidance, the conditions required for said returns, including necessary staffing levels, and the differing priorities of each year group.

We waited as long as we dared in order to provide something by way of physical encounters to bind the children in pale imitation of the so long-anticipated leavers' programme. It is in sight, but already the children have excelled themselves online in what they have contributed. At the very moment a return might, rather suddenly, be theoretically possible, extensive plans are in train. A return of any kind, prior to 15th October, seemed impossible.

We have, however, worked out a plan, which crystalizes the requirements of Covid-19 (the ceiling on classroom groups of 15, the social distancing, the ban of mass gatherings) with the demands of safety, the staffing the school site for the remainder of the school (including Year 7) and the existing 'booked and paid for' leavers' programme. This is plan is as follows:

Wednesday 1st July: The Year 8 leavers complete their afternoon activities and come straight to Beeston, with their school uniform, for 5.30pm. They then participate, as two bubbles, in an end of term assembly outside, with a somewhat stage-managed approach to prizes being awarded. By appearing 'live' in the filming this assembly, receiving prizes and contributing in a range of ways, the children will be genuinely highlighted and celebrated at the end of term, while also helping us deliver an online end of term prize-giving at 4pm, Friday 3rd July.

I hope this Wednesday plan will have some degree of 'closure' for the children by returning to the site and be rewarded with a brief and basic barbeque afterwards. I am afraid it will be quite short and sharp and will be **children only**, of course. Details of drops offs – 'kiss and go', expectations and risk assessments will come in the usual way from Mr Hammond. Given the demands of the days that follow, including giving Year 7 a day on site, we would expect the children to be picked up by 7pm, ready for their final two days of leavers' activities on Thursday and Friday.

Though a scant reflection of the usual, it will be a prelude to a fuller leavers' ball celebration in the summer and the official Speech Day, in front of a crowd of Beestonians and parents, on Friday 15th October.

Please could you indicate over the next 24 hours if this is something you are able to facilitate by way of being 'taxi drivers' and the like?

With best wishes,

Fred de Falbe