

Queensbury School

Wood End Road
Erdington
Birmingham
B24 8BL
Telephone: 0121 373 5731
Email: enquiry@queensbury.bham.sch.uk
Website: <https://www.queensburysch.com>



20th May 2020,

Dear Parents/Carer,

RE: Potential School Re-opening

We understand/are aware that you may have a lot of questions about the school potentially being reopened from June 1st for some students. Hopefully, this letter will provide you with some more clarity and answer some of your questions and worries.

Government advice to mainstream schools is to facilitate the return in specific year groups, back into school. For Special Schools, the guidance **is not aimed at particular year groups** but **aimed at set priority groups** for the school.

For Queensbury School the following groups will be our initial priority:

- **Vulnerable Children and Key Worker provision**
- **Current Year 10 GCSE students**
- **Our most complex students with Severe Learning difficulties who require consistency and significant support.**

We feel it is prudent to take a cautious and measured approach that carefully builds our capacity over time. This includes careful consideration of available staffing, given shielding requirements, and the availability of much needed resources to ensure we are able to maintain hygiene standards and personal protective equipment (PPE) stocks as set out in the guidance, for the short, medium and longer term.

The safety, needs, of our students and staff is central to all the decisions we undertake; and the planning for this is hugely complex, taking into account: risk assessments for individual students, staff, environment, student arrival and departure, lunch and transition. With regard to safety, we will not make any compromises or short cuts and why we have determined that the school would not be able to open before the 15th June.

Queensbury School will not be re-opening **until June 15th** at the earliest. This start date will also be dependent on the Government meeting the five pillar tests, the R value, test, track and trace systems in place, approval from the IEB board (the School Governing Body) and Local Authority approval.



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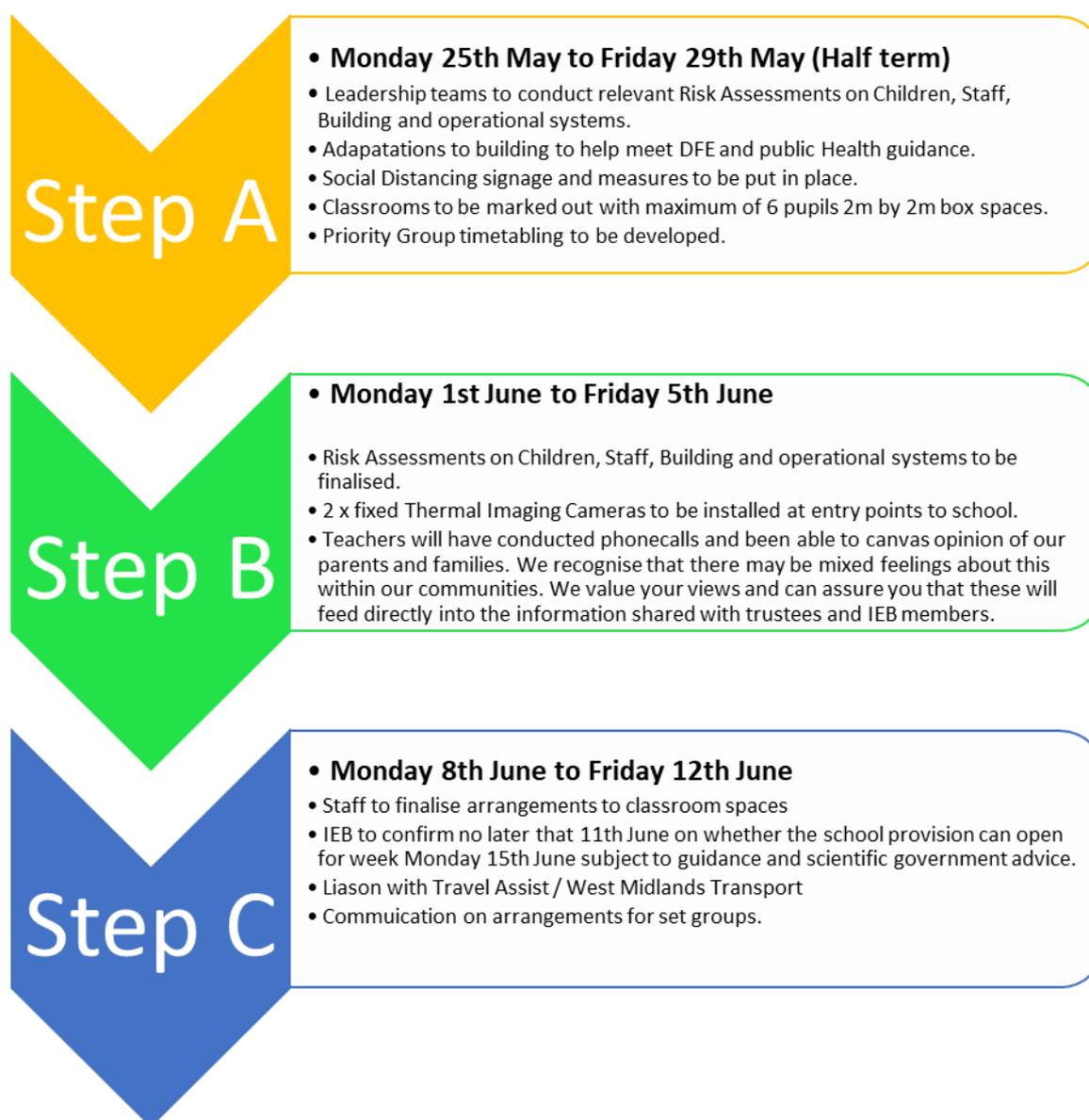
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When School does open, the provision will look and feel very different to normal, due to the new measures we will be putting in place. Our teachers will try and prepare the students the best we can and ask for your support in this.

The school has laid out a timeframe for the phased opening but these dates may change dependent upon the scientific data presented in the future.

Queensbury School – Planned timeframe for reopening some provision.



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In terms of the control measures the school is taking, these will vary for different groups of children dependent on risk assessments, here are some of the main measures and changes the school has been working hard to complete

Control measures to reduce risk:

1. Class sizes of no more than 6 students plus staff required.
2. Work stations to have 2m visual marked box around desks to help remind students to keep their distance.
3. Social distancing signage around school.
4. Social distancing spots on floors to help students.
5. Reconfigure entry points to school.
6. Thermal Imaging Cameras fixed to take temperatures of all students, staff and visitors at reception and 6th form entrance.
7. Portable thermal imaging camera to take temperatures of students when they arrive on buses.
8. Try to ensure that class groups work with reduced numbers of teachers and staff maintaining a "smaller family bubble of learning". This is not possible for our higher ability students who will need specialist teachers, but the timetable will reduce contacts.
9. Hand sanitisers stations installed.
10. Bins in classrooms all to have foot operated lid.
11. Increased hand washing stations and facilities throughout the school.
12. Break and Lunchtimes will not have students mixing together, only those in their 'class bubble' and they will be supervised to ensure that try to adhere to 2 metre social distancing.
13. Work stations only used by the same students.



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14. Deep cleaning between different provision groups on different days.
15. Supplied equipment cleaned.
16. Lunches within the classroom.
17. Relevant Policies updated eg: Infection control.

I should be clear, however, that **remote learning will continue to be the norm for the majority of students** including those that we do provide provision for in school.

With regards to Home Learning, it has been great to see so many of our students have been logging onto Purple Mash regularly and completing the tasks that have been set for them by their teachers. We would like to thank parents and carers for supporting them with this. We fully understand how challenging this can be and I think we should be clapping all parents as well on a Thursday evening to show national appreciation.

Remote learning will continue to be the norm for the majority of students, including those from the priority groups who will be accessing provision in school. For these students, the focus of their learning will be reinforcing key skills and knowledge, particularly in the core subjects. Staff will then give guidance of the work to be completed at home which will continue to be delivered via Purple Mash.

Students who do not fall into the current priority groups should continue to use Purple Mash to access the work set for Home Learning. Form staff will continue to check that students are logging onto the Purple Mash platform and completing the tasks set by the relevant subject teachers. Whilst most of our students have logged onto Purple Mash, some are not completing the work that has been set for them and we would really appreciate parents/carers encouraging them to do so. We realise that engaging some of our students within the home environment is difficult but the advantage of Purple Mash is that it allows staff to give students direct feedback on their work and make suggestions for improvement. There are also many games, quizzes and additional activities that students can engage in with more independence. There will be no new work set for half term week as this will give students the opportunity to catch-up on their '2Do' tasks. There are also links to SENECA and GCSE Pod where appropriate, which are still available on our school website, as well as links to alternative learning platforms.



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We recognise that Home/School communication is really important during this time. Should parents/carers require further advice on Home Learning, there are email addresses for form and subject staff on our website. We are also incredibly pleased to see the many photographs and updates that families have sent to us, sharing the achievements that their children have made whilst learning at home.

The return to school will be a step by step, progressive approach and we will gradually look to increase the provision we offer to other groups of students when we are confident and have the capacity to do so.

We all have the view that we want to have our students back in school, but this has to be when we, and you as parents, are reassured that this will be safe. This is why the Government is encouraging parents to support the phased return to school, but have confirmed that attendance is not compulsory at this time. At this point in time the school would not be pursuing any attendance penalties and respect the decisions made by parents to keep their children safe.

We will continue to keep you informed and send out more detailed information when we are closer to confirming the reopening of some school provision. Please read our Questions and Answers document to help answer some of the questions you may have.

Finally give our warm regards to all our students.

Many thanks

Yours sincerely

Mr David Bishop

Chair of the IEB
On behalf of the IEB

Mr Chris Wilson

Interim Head Teacher
with executive powers



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