

**Friday 12 June 2020**

**“Take comfort in knowing that all great feats are accomplished one small step at a time.” Og Mandino (American author and philosopher)**

Dear Blackfen students

On Monday we take the first of our next steps on our journey and we are so excited about it. On Monday 15 June we start the process of opening the school to more students and we cannot wait. As you know, the school has been open for the last 44 school days and the last 56 week days including holidays for a limited number of students. At the moment, there are around 25 students attending. However, from Monday, students in years 10 and 12 will get some teaching time in school. They will continue to work remotely at home most of the week, like students in years 7-9, but they will have, from Monday, some subject specialist teaching in school.

This is what it will look like for those students attending school. In year 10 every student will be in school for 4 and a half hours for one day a week. Over the next 3 weeks they will be taught in English, mathematics and science. They will be in small groups (you would have heard them called bubbles) for their time in the school. In year 12, students will be taught in each of the subjects that they study. They will be based in the 14-19 building in their own bubble.

I have attached the letter sent to parents/carers of year 10 students so you can see what is expected of them and how we are working to ensure that the school environment is safe.

These are the first small steps and we need to make sure they are taken carefully to ensure that all the school community feel safe and ready. When we put the small steps together we know that we can accomplish great things. Even if you are not able to physically come in to school over the coming weeks to take these first physical steps, I urge you to continue to take these steps virtually with us.

They are small steps but we wish the year 10 and year 12 students and all the staff all the best from Monday as these take these small steps. We will all be thinking of those coming in to school over the next week. (I attach a few photos of some of the changes anyone coming in to school will notice).

We must all continue to move forward to accomplish great feats.

With my best wishes to you, your family and your friends at this time.

Matthew Brown



