



# Dayspring Trust

## Registered Office

Tunstall Bank, Sunderland, SR2 0SX

Telephone: 0191 523 9745 Fax: 0191 523 9775

Email: [venerable.bede@venerablebede.co.uk](mailto:venerable.bede@venerablebede.co.uk)

Website: [www.venerablebede.co.uk](http://www.venerablebede.co.uk)

Executive Headteacher: Mrs G A Booth (BA Hons/M.Ed.)



Our Ref GBO/TN0

10<sup>th</sup> June 2020

Dear Parent / Carer

I hope that this letter finds you and your families well and that you enjoyed the half-term break.

Since I last wrote to you, there have been many announcements from the government and we are constantly checking on the DFE site for the latest advice. Before I explain what we have planned, please be aware that any plans are subject to change – we must be ready to respond to any eventuality. However, either I or the Head Teacher will inform you of any changes as soon as we can.

As you will be aware, we have been preparing our buildings in the hope that we will soon be able to re-open our schools for some face-to-face contact with our Year 10 pupils, simultaneously planning for the possibility of opening to more year groups in time. Needless to say, the safety of our pupils and staff remains paramount in all of our decision making. In light of this, we have completed a risk assessment which has been sent out in consultation with the local authorities and the unions. This risk assessment will be approved and signed by the directors of the Dayspring Trust and it must be considered a fluid document that will be updated as appropriate over the forthcoming weeks.

Below, you will find current information on each year group.

### Parents of Year 10 Pupils:

Each Year 10 pupil is being given a mentor who will personally oversee their learning from now until their return to school, whenever that may be. Next week, you will receive a letter from the Head Teacher of the academy, inviting you and your child into the school for a face-to-face meeting with their mentor in the week beginning Monday 22 June. These meetings will be carefully orchestrated and will follow strict social distancing regulations. During the meeting, your child's mentor will be able to discuss each subject area and give you feedback on how they have been progressing with their home learning. Please note that due to the regulations, only **ONE** parent / carer (or their representative, such as a grandparent) will be able to come to the meeting. No other people may accompany your child, including any younger siblings. The Head Teacher will also include detailed information regarding parking arrangements, how to enter and exit the building, and what will be discussed during the meeting.

At the end of June, as further information comes to light, we will then be assessing as to whether we can offer small group teaching for Year 10 pupils in some key subject areas. If this proves to be possible, pupils will be in classes of no more than 6 pupils in a class in the first instance. Further information on which group your child is in, and on what day they would need to attend, will follow in due course from the Head Teacher of the academy. Please note that these are tentative arrangements and could change at any point depending on the Covid 19 situation. It is important that we are proactive and that we react to the situation as it changes, keeping your child's safety at the heart of our decision making.

Parents / Carers of Pupils in Year 7-9 (but also relevant to Year 10 Parents / Carers):

The government have re-iterated yesterday that it will be at least September before pupils in Years 7 to 9 are able to return to school, meaning that they will have had a significant amount of time away from normal lessons and school life. Therefore, it is really important that all pupils continue with their home education. Our aim is to continue to support each child with their learning by providing relevant resources and appropriate tasks for them to do at home. The academy websites are being regularly updated with resources to support them in their learning and teachers will continue to set key tasks for completion.

Additionally, every child across the trust has had a welfare call so that we can try to assess each pupil's needs and support them and you as much as possible. Unfortunately, we have not been able to make contact with every parent / carer so far. Therefore, if you have not received a call yet, please contact the main office as soon as possible with a contact number or email on which to reach you. There may be things that we can help you with, including access to technology, and we can also signpost you and your child to relevant materials and support.


Year 6 Parents:

The Head Teacher will also be writing to the parents of pupils in Year 6 who are joining us in September, as well as continuing to plan for September when we hope that more pupils will be able to return to school. A transition video is being produced which should help to allay some fears and nerves.

Finally, we feel that our young people are amazing and we want to continue to celebrate their achievements and effort. A great example of this can be found on our websites. Just recently, our pupils starred in a National Assembly on the topic of Patience, a story picked up by the Northern Echo this week. You can see the film via the link on the website. Never has there been a time when we have been asked to be so patient. The film shows three different activities that will inspire our young people and is well worth watching.

Hopefully, we will receive further instruction from the government with regard to finding a way for all pupils to return safely to school. In the meantime, we pray that our young people remain resilient and hopeful. Please do keep in touch if you have any concerns or if we can support you in any way. You all remain in our hearts and prayers.

With best wishes



Mrs Booth  
Executive Headteacher  
Dayspring Trust