



Dear Parents and Carers

26 May

## **Government Announcement: Phased Re-Opening of Schools in England.**

Assalaamu Alaikum wa Rahmatullah and Eid Mubarak to all.

I hope this letter finds you in the best of health and firm Imaan.

You may have heard the announcement on Sunday that a phased re-opening of schools in England is going to begin, on **Monday 15th of June**. This decision has been taken by the government on the advice of its scientific and medical experts.

This means, in secondary, our Year 10s will be offered some 'face to face time' with their teachers. It's important to note, the government has told schools that this is not a return to lessons but is, in order to support online learning. The government has also informed schools that we can only have a quarter of the entire Year 10 group in at any one time.

For all other children, which are the majority of pupils in the school, our Online Learning Platform will continue as normal until the official end of the school year.

We have been expecting a decision like this for several weeks and preparations are already underway. Over the next 3 weeks, we will be contacting the families of those children who we will invite to return first. Our priorities are:

**1. Ensuring a happy return to School.** We know the experience of every child over lockdown has been different, and that some pupils and parents may be worried about work that has been missed over this period. *Please do not allow your child to spend time worrying about this, or spend time worrying about it yourselves.* At Al Risalah, teachers are used to helping their students catch up with any work which has been missed and we will do our job and get students up to speed quickly.

**2. Protecting and restoring the mental health of pupils.** The past few months have been stressful and turbulent for everyone. But a return to a normal routine will be beneficial in terms of advancing the wellbeing of children, as will face to face contact with their friends and teachers.

During the next two weeks, we will be giving teachers further training in how to help children who have additional mental health needs once they return.

**We do need your help: If your child has been adversely affected by COVID 19 - perhaps because of a change in family life, someone has been particularly unwell or a bereavement - please let us know. This applies to everyone, whether or not your child is in the returning group - Year 10. If we have this information, then we can be sure to provide the additional help and support that your son or daughter needs.**





**3. Ensuring a safe and hygienic school environment for pupils, staff and parents.** We will be putting in place all the protective measures which the government has told schools to implement. This includes: the frequent cleaning of classrooms and equipment; maintaining social distancing of at least 2 metres; easy access to bathrooms and hand washing facilities and more.

We are sure that parents, in Year 10, will do their bit and ensure they regularly check their child's temperature and won't allow their child to attend school - if they are feeling unwell.

Year 10 parents are reminded that we will be in further contact with you all by phone and by letter over the next few weeks.

In the meantime, please continue to stay safe.

From all myself and all my colleagues

Wasalaam and Duas

Suhayl Lee

Exec. Principal

