

Young person Coronavirus Webinar – Q & A responses

EDUCATION

Please note, these responses were representative of information available on the date they were written – 27th May 2020. The guidance relating to Coronavirus will be continually updated, for up-to-date information please visit <https://www.hertfordshirefamiliesfirst.org.uk/covid19-edition-4/current-news/where-do-i-get-the-latest-information>

Question	Response
Social distancing measures in schools	
How are schools going to social distance?	Each school will have to work out how best they will manage social distancing. Schools are particularly being asked to minimise mixing between groups. There may be a range of things schools put in place e.g. classrooms with smaller numbers of pupils. Some year groups will return to schools before others in order for schools to achieve this.
When we go back to school will there be smaller classes?	In order to maintain social distancing, it is likely schools will have fewer pupils in classrooms and less mixing between groups. Headteachers are working really hard on this to ensure everyone is kept safe. This may well last well into the Autumn, depending on how social distancing guidance evolves. The size of the group in each class will vary depending on the school's classroom size.
Will we have to get tested to go back to school?	There are no current plans for children and young people to be tested before they go back to school. If someone has symptoms or has been around someone else with symptoms, they should not attend school and the Government has now pledged to test students if they display symptoms.
Will we be able to see our teachers before the end of lockdown?	There are plans for certain year groups to return to school (Reception, Year 1 and Year 6) or have some face to face contact with their teachers (Year 10 and 12) before the summer holidays. In addition, many schools are providing a variety of activities to ensure students have contact with their school/ teachers each week.
Will there need to be more staff in schools for the smaller classes?	At the moment, schools are not being asked to accommodate all their students and most are finding ways to staff and resource smaller groups e.g. by setting up more different classroom layouts. Schools cannot easily increase staffing or number of classrooms – and therefore if there is an ongoing need for smaller classes, this will have to be planned for and managed with the existing resources. This may then mean that all years groups might not be able to be in at any one time if distancing rules continue.

As sixth form lessons tend to have smaller classes will it be more easy to begin sixth form lessons sooner?	Schools are being asked to work on places to facilitate some face to face time with students in Year 12 before September. Some sixth form classes are smaller but not all. However, schools are being asked to keep mixing of groups to a minimum so it may not be possible for sixth form lessons to resume as normal because of the range of students / teachers involved. Each school will be contacting their post 16 students to explain their plans.
Online lessons/learning	
Most private schools are doing online zoom lessons with their classes - can our schools not offer that for primary school Y6 kids?	Different schools are adopting different approaches – some primary schools are using online lessons via Google classrooms etc.
Could online learning be potentially as good a regular school learning in the future if corona virus continues?	Schools are working hard to ensure the remote learning is as interesting, helpful and supportive as it could be. We appreciate there are some limitations but the efforts of teachers, parents and students have meant this has been a successful solution in challenging times.
May online learning be developed to be as good as regular school learning?	Whilst the quality of online learning has been very good in most places, there are a few elements that can't be easily replaced. E.g. practical work, group work, group discussion. Ultimately, schools want their student their students back as quickly as possible.
Why can't state schools do online Zoom sessions?	There have been some reported security issues related to use of Zoom, so generally schools are using Google classroom or MS Teams.
Exams and tests	
Do you think primary SATS will go ahead next year?	At this stage, we don't know the answer to this.
Should we be making lots of revision material over this time and be doing lots of preparation over this time at home on top of normal schoolwork? I'm in Year 10	Trust your teachers – they will tell you when is the right time to start doing this. They will be setting work that will help steer you through your courses. If you are doing your own revision on top of set remote learning work – make sure you establish clear breaks between home time and home school time.
What will happen to year 10 exams?	At the moment, we don't know if there will be any changes to the exams for current Year 10 and 12 next year. Teachers are working on the plans to make sure you are ready for them whatever they look like. Therefore, it is important to make sure you work hard at the work set.
I'm in year 11 and I was wondering if we'll be able to retake exams in not just the core subjects.	There is currently a consultation about the scope and timing of the proposed Autumn 'retake' series. Nothing has yet been decided but Ofqual is keen to hear from everyone. You can have your say at the link below: https://www.smartsurvey.co.uk/s/KX3VER/
Is it fair to have year 12 exams (mocks) which will impact predicted grades greatly if we go	Year 12 mocks are unlikely to go ahead in the way originally planned – but teachers know you best and

back to school in June/July despite missing out on content?	they will use what you've done to date to help you with personal statements etc. Do talk to your teacher/school about when they might expect you to sit mock exams. Remember mocks help you understand what else you need to work on – as long as your prepare thoroughly.
Year 12 exams (my school wants to have them when we go back is this allowed?)	School can set mock exams when they feel it will be best for the student and for their teachers to understand how to help them. If you are being set revision and practice exam papers now, it is important you take this work seriously.
Do you have an idea on what will happen with the year 12 Mock exams which were meant to happen after the easter break, as they are not public exams but are considered very important as they are what universities look at. I've seen different schools having different approaches which could be controversial as the grades will be seen as equal to the universities	Year 12 mocks are unlikely go ahead in the way originally planned – but teachers know you best and they will use what you've done to date to help you with personal statements etc. Do talk to your teacher/school about when they are going to expect you to do mock exams.
Will Autumn retakes go ahead this year	There is currently a consultation about the scope and timing of the proposed Autumn 'retake' series. Nothing has yet been decided but Ofqual is keen to hear from everyone. You can have your say at the link below: https://www.smartsurvey.co.uk/s/KX3VER/
Is it worth doing exams in autumn if we are not happy with results?	If you are unhappy with your results and you feel you can prepare well for the exam, it may be worthwhile. However, if you have not done any work on the subject since March, it may be difficult to get 'up to speed.'
Will exam boards consider appeals?	Exam boards will only consider appeals submitted by centres, not by students directly. There will not be an opportunity for students to challenge their centre assessment grade or their position in the centre's rank order through an exam board appeal.
Year group questions	
Will transition day for year 6 go ahead?	Secondary schools are working with primary schools to provide transition activities – even if these are not in person. Your secondary school will be sharing their plans soon after half term if they haven't already.
What advice do you have for year 6 transition to secondary school?	Do everything your current teachers ask you to do now, say if you don't understand and be honest about anything you find difficult with your new teachers next year – and work hard.

	Secondary schools will work with parents and primary schools to make sure the transition is as informative and helpful as it can be. Don't forget – everyone is in the same boat.
When do you think students in years 7-9 will be back in school	At the moment, we don't know but we do know it won't be before September.
When will year seven students go back	See above
What will happen to year 7 and 8?	Online and remote lessons will continue until the summer. We don't currently know what will happen in September. There will probably be some remote learning in place for a considerable period of time.
Hello and thanks for organising this Q&A, I am really grateful. What will happen to year 7s who are just coming in. I have a friend and he joined school 1 week before lockdown, so what will happen?	Secondary schools are working with primary schools to provide transition activities – even if these are not in person. Your secondary school will be sharing their plans soon after half term if they haven't already. They will talk to your teachers and understand what you are good at and what you need to work on. The important thing is not to worry and keep working on the work you are given so your secondary school knows what you can do.
When will year 8s go back	We are waiting for the Government to let us know, but it won't be before September.
Is it likely that for year 10s in English we will have one less text to learn as we will not be able to cover two more texts when we get back to school at it is very difficult to study Macbeth over email.	At the moment the exam boards have not made any announcements on any changes to exams next year. Therefore teachers are working hard to ensure you catch up and are ready to sit the exams as normal if needed. The important thing is to make sure you do the work set (It is hard to study Macbeth over email!) and make sure you look for ways to help you learn difficult texts and topics e.g. watching the play, reading summaries
for year 10 students taking PE GCSE what will happen with our summer sports if we don't go back until September?	Different PE departments will have different solutions to this. You will need to ask your own school to see what is manageable.
How will the current Year 12 students be prepared by their schools to write their personal statements and apply to universities? This is not very clear.	Personal statements are not due until next academic year and schools will support this through their current communication/ remote learning channels. However, www.ucas.com also offers some great help and advice.
Will there be support for year 12s who will be looking for further education but will not be able to go to open days or explained in tutor time how to apply for further education?	Most colleges and universities are now offering virtual open days and are hoping to offer some on site visits later in the year.
Shouldn't y12 be putting in a UCAS Personal Statement/ & a list of potential University Choices, school haven't asked us to	Personal statements are not due until next academic year and schools will support this through their current communication/ remote learning channels. However, www.ucas.com also offers some great help and advice.
Teachers	
The importance of outdoor learning is on the increase, are there any plans to support	Many schools use outdoor learning but there are clearly challenges with the space and climate.

schools to shape a new environment for teaching and learning?	
My Year 10 has had NO work marked in 8 weeks, he is so conscientious. Must teaches do SOME marking?, or it is rather soul destroying	Most schools are trying to find ways to provide feedback. However, it can be more challenging for schools to provide feedback if work has not been submitted remotely. However, this is something to raise with your child's school.
Colleges / Universities	
What will happen for people in colleges?	See answer below
When will colleges be open?	In line with Government guidelines, most colleges may be partly open to some students from 15 th June. You will need to check the arrangements with your own college.
University open days are very important in helping year 12 and 13 chose a course and institution. What arrangements are proposed in this and next year?	Universities are already making plans and virtual open days are already on offer at many – offering: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Subject taster sessions • Q&A sessions with staff • Online chat with current students • Webinars • Virtual tours Many are asking you to register now to revcieve more details so it is well worth doing this. Many universities are hoping that open days scheduled between June and September may be able to go ahead. Check out www.whatuni.com for more information.
Will universities offer virtual open days?	See above
Other questions	
is there any chance of schools being open over summer or will the 6 weeks holidays still go ahead?	Although there is a good deal of speculation, there are currently no plans to change the summer holiday. Many schools have offered some summer activity in the past and this may continue if they are able to.
what will happen for people will happen for students with EHCPs	Students with EHCPs will be supported on their return but there may be some adjustments to the support depending on need.
When we go back to school will it be a shock to all the students	It is likely that people will react differently to returning to school. Some may be really looking forward to returning, and for others they may be anxious about returning. Information on how to look after your wellbeing and where to access support if needed, can be found here – www.justtalkherts.org
What will happen when a child in a school got the virus and spreads around the school?	There are three things we need to continue to do to limit the risk of the virus spreading. <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Good hygiene and hand washing 2. Regular cleaning within the school 3. Maintain social distancing - during lesson time and breaks If any child has symptoms, they should not attend school.
Will appeals on secondary schools be heard still?	Yes – plans are in place for these to still be heard.

Do you think there will be more opportunities to retake a year when we go back in September?	There are no plans for this to happen as schools don't have the facilities and staff to accommodate another year group.
if you have to travel out of the area to get to school do you suggest that I stay off school for a little bit longer as I have asthma and I am high risk as I got a letter from the NH	The advice for anyone shielding who has received a letter, the Government guidance is that you should not attend school unless you are certain that social distancing can be observed. If you are in a household with someone vulnerable, you are expected to return to school but you will need to take suitable precautions e.g. social distancing, hand washing, etc.
Will people be held back a year?	There are no plans for this to happen as schools don't have the facilities and staff to accommodate another year group.

Thank you for all the questions you submitted.