



16 July 2020

Dear Parents and Carers

Arrangements for the full re-opening of School – September 2020

You will be aware of the government's plan that all children and young people in all year groups, will return to school full time from the beginning of the autumn term. The staff and I are very much looking forward to welcoming back all our students into school from September and to welcoming new students to the school in both Year 7 and Year 12.

Following the recent publication of detailed guidance to schools and to parents <https://bit.ly/3fzXJaj> I am pleased to be in a position now to outline in more detail some of the changes we will be putting in place and the steps we will be taking to keep our school safe for everyone.

The government guidance to both schools, parents and carers recognises the following:

- The prevalence of coronavirus (COVID-19) has decreased since schools closed to most pupils in late March.
- The NHS Test and Trace system is now up and running and more is understood about the measures that need to be in place to create safer environments in school and the wider community.
- The scientific evidence shows that coronavirus (COVID-19) presents a much lower risk to children than adults of becoming severely ill, and there is no evidence that children transmit the disease more than adults.

While coronavirus remains in the community, there are still risks to manage and this is why we will be putting in place a range of protective measures, many of which have been in operation successfully since early June when we were able to welcome back students from Years 10 and 12 into school.

I am sure that you and a large proportion of the students will welcome the return to school at the start of the next academic year after such a long and sustained period of home schooling. Nonetheless, I recognise that there will be some individuals who feel anxious about the return to school and we are ready to provide the support needed to help students through the transition. Parents and carers with concerns about their child returning to school are asked to contact their child's Head of House in the first instance.

There is no doubt that it is important for children and young people to return to school for their educational progress, emotional wellbeing and wider development. For parents and carers of children of compulsory school age, this means that the legal duty on you as a parent or carer to send your child to school regularly will apply.

Understandably the steps taken by any individual school must be appropriate to their specific circumstances and may be influenced by the school's intake, geographical location and restrictions on the school site. Our approach is very similar to that taken by the majority of other local secondary schools in the interests of:

- a) maintaining the planned broad and balanced curriculum
- b) introducing changes which are as simple and straightforward as possible and understood by all
- c) maintaining social distancing and reducing mixing between groups

Our detailed plans for re-opening, which accompany this letter, are in line with government guidance issued to all schools and are supplemented by a health and safety risk assessment. Our risk assessment will be made available shortly to parents and carers via our school website.

Please note the staggered start of term to support the induction of students new to the school and the phased establishment of new ways of working:

Year Group:	Start Date:	Start Time:
7	Thursday 3 rd September	8.35am
8	Monday 7 th September	8.35am
9	Monday 7 th September	9.00am
10	Monday 7 th September	9.00am
11	Friday 4 th September	9.00am
12	Friday 4 th September	8.35am
13	Friday 4 th September	10.00am

Parents and carers are requested to read the attached information, to note the planned changes to school routines, timings of the school day and our start of term arrangements. Students should walk or cycle to school if at all possible. The use of public transport by students, particularly in peak times, should be kept to a minimum and unnecessary journeys using buses and trains, in particular, should not be made since it is expected that transport capacity will be constrained in the autumn term. In order that we are able to provide the necessary facilities to accommodate more bicycles on the school site please can you complete the online survey stating your intended method of travel to school.

https://forms.office.com/Pages/ResponsePage.aspx?id=JJIPGEbQI0WK_zLIhujW6pynCZbVMkZKpcj6X7DGKqFURVpKS0w1UVM5QUhSQzUwVDRVNjJPTkk1RC4u

Whilst the school academic year will be finishing later this week (Friday 17th July) and the school will be closed for the summer holidays, there will be much work taking place by teachers and associate staff to prepare the school site and review and adapt our curriculum plans and resources in readiness for the new school year. All schools are expecting confirmation from the Department for Education on 11th August prior to reopening schools from the start of the autumn term.

We will communicate again with students, parents and carers before the end of the summer holidays and will keep you updated in the event of any changes to government guidance or the situation locally or nationally.

Thank you in advance for your support and understanding as we introduce and enforce new changes from September to return all our students safely into school.

Yours sincerely



Mr P Foster
Headteacher