

Dear Families

Following the latest Government advice, we would like to update you on our plans for the re-opening of school in September. Our plans are for the Autumn term only, in the first instance.

We look forward to welcoming our students back to school and to full time education. We have closely followed Government guidelines for secondary schools and have robust risk assessments in place.

Our overarching principle is to ensure that students in school experience a high quality, broad and balanced curriculum, whilst staying safe.

As outlined in the plan sent out in July, we will stagger the first week so that we can support students effectively with transition activities.

Monday 7th September	Staff CPD and induction day
Tuesday 8th September	Year 7 only
Wednesday 9th September	Year 7 and Year 12 only
Thursday 10th September	Year 7, Year 8, Year 9 and Year 12 only
Friday 11th September	Year 10, Year 11 and Year 13 only

From Monday 14th September, all students will return to full time education. To help us maintain Year Group bubbles, we will need to adapt the way students arrive at school and the areas in which younger students are taught. We will also have a one-way system for the main route around school, which will be in operation for staff and students from 8.25am- 2.50pm.

We have staggered break and lunchtimes, so that all students can access snacks, hot food and designated social spaces. Details will be shared with students during the transition week. Initially, we will only be able to offer a limited breakfast service for Year 10 and 11 and, from 21st September, for Year 7. However, we will review this when we have established the new routines.

Arrival

There will be clear signage at the front of school and a team of staff to guide and support students as they establish new routines.

When students arrive at school we will use 3 entrances so that we can minimise contact with others. If possible, we would like Year 7 to arrive as close to 8.00am and Year 8 to arrive as close to 8.20am as possible. We appreciate that not all families will be able to arrange this. However, even if in small numbers, this will be useful.

- Year 7 will use the right hand filter of the main gate and follow the outside path to the Year 7 zone.
- Year 8 will use the right hand filter of the main gate and go directly into the Year 8 zone.
- Year 9 will use the left hand filter of the main gate and then access school via the student entrance.
- Year 10 will use the left hand filter of the main gate and enter school through Reception.
- Year 11 will use the side entrance near the main hall.
- Post 16 will use the Sixth Form entrance.

Where Post 16 students have a late start or an early finish, they will be able to arrive later and leave school early, if they wish to.

At the end of the school day, we will allow Year 7 and 8 students to leave slightly earlier than other students. Further details will follow during transition week.

Advice about face coverings and travel to school.

"It is now the law that children and young people aged 11 and over must wear a face covering on public transport. This law does not apply to dedicated school transport. However, we recommend that local authorities advise people aged 11 and over to wear a face covering when travelling on dedicated school transport to secondary school or college from the start of the autumn term. This does not apply to [those who are exempt from wearing a face covering on public transport](#)."

We believe this is an appropriate balance, because:

- the overall risk to children and young people of serious illness as a result of coronavirus (COVID-19) is very low.
- they do not mix with the general public on those journeys.
- home to school transport often carries the same group of children and young people on a regular basis.
- the predictability of home to school transport will allow for planning so that protective measures can be put in place."

For this reason, young people should wear face coverings when on public transport, including when travelling in shared taxis, sharing cars with members of other households etc. It is also recommended that your child has more than one face covering with them to reduce any potential risk of infection when putting a face covering on and when taking a face covering off e.g. they have a washable face covering to travel to school if required, and one to wear to travel home. Care needs to be taken when putting on and removing face coverings. Current advice is that **face coverings or face shields do not need to be worn on the school site.**

We will continue to work closely with families to ensure we provide the very best education for all our students. Although this will be a very different start to term, we are doing everything possible to ensure that students have an excellent start to the year and enjoy their return to school.

**Kindest regards
Julie & David**