

25th August 2020



Dear Parents and Carers,

I hope that you and your families are well and have enjoyed the summer break. As school reopening nears, I wanted to write to you all to inform you of some significant changes that we have had to make as well as other important guidance, in order that the health, safety and welfare of the School community is ensured. We continue to follow all guidance that has been issued but it is clear that each school must work within their own constraints.

Amendments to our School day and the curriculum

- We have changed the timings of lessons and will now run a four-period day with each lesson one hour and fifteen minutes in length
- This reduces the movement around the school for staff as each year group will be based in one designated area as per the guidance
- Breaks and lunches will be in designated areas with the cafes providing lighter refreshments so we would ask that all students come to school with their own snacks/food/drinks. All students who are eligible for Free School Meals, will be catered for
- Hand sanitiser is widely available throughout the whole school
- Students will stay in their 'bubble' and move to classrooms within their areas
- All examination subjects will continue to have approximately the same amount of time as the current provision
- Years 7 & 8 will study all subjects to ensure that they are following a broad and balanced curriculum. There will be a slight reduction in contact time for non-core subjects
- All student timetables will be issued upon their return with information about one-way systems, break arrangements and rules in regard to health and safety
- School will start and finish at the same times - 8.45am and 3.05pm. The school day will be as follows:
 - 8.45 Registration
 - 9.05 Period 1
 - 10.20 Break
 - 10.50 Period 2
 - 12.05 Period 3
 - 13.20 Break
 - 13.50 Period 4
 - 15.05 End of day
- ***Please note that every Friday, school will conclude at the end of Period 3 at 13.20. This is to allow for whole school planning and preparation as well as additional cleaning***

Personal Organisation and Equipment

Every student needs to be fully equipped and totally independent. Equipment is not to be shared. Worksheets and resources are to be kept to a minimum. Every day, each child must bring to school:

- A full pencil case which includes 4 pens, 2 pencils, 1 green pen, an eraser, a sharpener, highlighters (especially a green one), a glue stick, a ruler, a calculator, some scissors. Equipment CANNOT be shared between peers and staff are not permitted to loan any equipment to the students
- A set of earphones compatible with the school's IT and Music facilities are essential
- Exercise books required for the day
- Student Planner – Student Planners will be distributed by Form Tutors on the students' first day in school
- A personal reading book
- A note book
- Any additional equipment that may be specific to courses of study such as musical instruments
- A pack of tissues – to make sure we 'catch it, bin it, kill it'
- A bottle of hand sanitiser to use during lessons (for personal use)
- Any refreshments

Managing Illness

If your child becomes unwell with a new, continuous cough or a high temperature, or has a loss of, or change in, their normal sense of taste or smell (anosmia), they will be sent home and advised to follow 'stay at home: guidance for households with possible or confirmed coronavirus (COVID-19) infection', which sets out that they must self-isolate for at least 7 days and should arrange to have a test to see if they have coronavirus (COVID-19). Other members of their household (including any siblings) should self-isolate for 14 days from when the symptomatic person first had symptoms.

It is imperative that you have made arrangements for your child to be collected within 15 minutes of receiving notification that your child is unwell. You will need to plan a contingency should you be working more than 15 minutes' travelling distance from the school.

In accordance with Government guidelines, should your child be ill, you must:

- Book a test if they are displaying symptoms. Your child and any siblings must not come into the school if they have symptoms. All children can be tested.
- Provide details of anyone they have been in close contact with if they were to test positive for coronavirus (COVID-19) or if asked by NHS Test & Trace
- Self-isolate if they have been in close contact with someone who develops coronavirus (COVID-19) symptoms or someone who tests positive for coronavirus (COVID-19)
- Checking your child in the morning prior to sending them to school is imperative so that we can minimise the risk of spreading the virus

When we return, we know that this may be an anxious time for you and for your children. We will continue to do all we can to support the reintegration back to school and work with our parents if there are any concerns. It will also be important for us to work and support our students in making sure that any gaps in learning are addressed and appropriate intervention and support will be put in place to ensure this happens.

September will be a challenge for all schools across the country as we work through the new 'normal'. In order for stability, the plan outlined in this letter, whilst it may be subject to small amendments, will be in place until October half-term at the very least. I am sure that over the coming weeks, there will be lots of communication from the school to keep you all updated.

Yours faithfully,



Mr R Denial
Principal

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