

13 July 2020

Dear Parents and Carers

As we start the last week of this academic year I wanted to share with you the outline of how we will start the next academic year. A full plan will be added on to the school website with the risk assessments as well, I thought though that it would be useful to share the central key details with you in a letter.

The central premise behind what we are planning is that we will offer the full curriculum and the whole timetable. There will be some changes to the way we teach more practical elements, but I believe that we can teach everything and I remain committed to every student completing the whole range of GCSEs. Whilst there may be further lockdowns and things might change again, we need to start the year committed to making the new academic year as close to normal as possible or I fear that we are giving up before we have even started.

When we come back in September, we are starting back to school in full school uniform, including shoes and a return to the exemplary standards the students have shown in the past. Remember please that there is a change to lunchtime and we now have a split lunch.

The main protective factors we need to focus on are:

- No one to attend the school site if they show symptoms of Coronavirus
- Good cleaning and hygiene arrangements
- Promoting preventative measures such as 'Catch it, kill it, bin it'
- Handwashing and sanitising.

If you have the following symptoms or anyone in the household has the following symptoms, you must not and your children must not attend school:

- High temperature – this means you feel hot to touch on your chest or back (you do not need to measure your temperature)
- New, continuous cough – this means coughing a lot for more than an hour, or 3 or more coughing episodes in 24 hours (if you usually have a cough, it may be worse than usual)
- Loss or change to your sense of smell or taste – this means you've noticed you cannot smell or taste anything, or things smell or taste different to normal

If you have symptoms of coronavirus (COVID-19), however mild, OR you have received a positive coronavirus (COVID-19) test result, the clear medical advice is to immediately self-isolate at home for at least 7 days from when your symptoms started. Do not go to a GP surgery, pharmacy or hospital or attend school. You should arrange to have a test to see if you have COVID-19

We will be teaching Year 7 in their form tutor groups for most lessons. Years 8 and 9 will be taught in the same subject groupings as last year. **We are postponing the introduction of GCSE for Year 9 until at least February half term.** Students have a right to, an entitlement to the knowledge and learning the broad curriculum of Key Stage 3 and we have missed a considerable chunk of that. We will delay the start of GCSEs for years 7, 8 and 9 until the second half of the year 9 for at least the next three years in order that students can catch up on the breadth of their entitlement.

We are making some changes to the day around whole year bubbles and the serving of food. These changes will be reviewed on a monthly basis and if the rate of community transmission continues to reduce we will remove these protective factors as soon as we are able to as they will be a real negative in the daily lived experience of our students. Essentially we will not be serving food at break time and students will need to go to a dedicated zone for both break and lunch and year groups will not mix. Food will then be served at lunch time and taken to the zones to be eaten. Food will be served on a rota and the zones and the rota will be shared with students on induction days at the start of the year. The dates to return to school are below, but again, we will look to remove the zones as soon as we feel it is safe to do so.

Pattern for return to school in September 2020

- **Tuesday 1 September 2020** – Additional INSET day, reflecting on the last five months, what this might mean for our students, ethos and culture of the school, readiness to return to school, impact on behaviour and our approach to reengagement.
- **Wednesday 2 September 2020** – INSET day, prep to open
- **Thursday 3 September 2020** – Year 7 in full day (no other year groups in) – 8.40 start
- **Friday 4 September 2020** - Year 7 in full day (no other year groups in) – 8.40 start
- **Monday 7 September 2020** – Year 7 in all day, Year 9 in for 9.45 and Year 11 in for 10.15 (Years 8 and 10 do not attend). Day will include induction to movement, zones etc. All year groups finish at normal time.
- **Tuesday 8 September 2020** – Year 7 in all day, Year 8 in for 9.45 and Year 10 in for 10.15 (Years 9 and 11 do not attend). Day will include induction to movement, zones etc. All year groups finish at normal time.

Wednesday 9 September 2020 all students back in school.

Students need to go to the following zones at break and lunch time:

- Year 7 main school hall – KS 3 toilets
- Year 8 former Boys' main school hall – working to reinstate main toilets
- Year 9 to gym – changing room toilets in the first instance
- Year 10 sixth form block split over two floors – toilets in the block
- Year 11 to drama studio this side – KS 4 toilets.

There are more details on how the school will work in our plan and this will be placed on to the website, but I do not want to bombard you at this stage with an endless sea of paper. Please look over the summer break and if you have questions please email school office and I will try to respond. The plan has been written for staff and includes my rationale for not doing some things as well as why we are doing others.

Can I also ask that students are not left at school before 8.15am. There will be no breakfast club for the foreseeable future and whilst I would like to accommodate children at an earlier time to support parents, I cannot staff enough spaces to keep year groups separated out. From 8.15am we will allow students to go straight to their form rooms, however, they will not always be supervised and if a situation arises were there are too many students or this arrangement becomes difficult to manage, I will need to change the arrival time for some or all students to 8.40. I am sorry that we cannot be more accommodating; I do share an understanding of how difficult these arrangements are.

Yours sincerely



Mr K Flanagan
Headteacher