



August 2020

Dear Parent/Carer

I hope that this letter finds you well and that you have had a restful and safe Summer.

As you will be aware, we are looking forward to welcoming students back to school in September. Unless anything changes with a local lockdown or further national guidance, we plan to have students back as follows:

**Thursday 3rd September - Year 7 and Year 11 students return to school.**

Students should be onsite by 8.40am. Students should report to the relevant area which is explained within this letter.

**Friday 4th September - Year 8, 9 and 10 return to school, joining the Year 7 and 11 students.**

Students should be onsite by 8.40am. Students should report to the relevant area which is explained within this letter.

Next week, you will also receive a text message indicating which form group your child is in and where they need to line up

You will already be aware, from my previous letter, that students will be taught in year group bubbles. This means that each year group will occupy a different area of the school and that they will remain in these areas all day. Staff will move around the school to teach the different year groups so that movement is kept to a minimum. By doing this, we are able to offer a full curriculum to our students. There will be some movement by students if they are required to use specialist areas such as Science and Computing but this will be controlled and supervised.

Each bubble area has toilets and students will be able to use toilets within their bubble area only. They will also have an outside space for break and lunchtime but, again, they will have to stay within this designated year area. They will not be able to wander to meet students from other year groups.

The school will provide a meals service but, to start with, it will be a sandwich service only. Those students entitled to a free meal will receive a sandwich bag with a sandwich, a drink and a cake/cookie. Other students will be able to purchase these items but this will need to be done in advance and student meal accounts will be charged. Food will be delivered to the zones and issued. Students will not visit the dining hall. For all these reasons, you may wish to provide your child with their lunch.

Ella Brett **Headteacher**

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At the start of the day, students should arrive at school for 8.40am and they will be directed to their designated year zone. Again, they will need to remain within this zone. At the end of the day, students will be escorted out of their zone and off site. They must observe the correct social distancing once off site.

For your information, the zones are as follows:

Year 7 - J Buildings. Students should assemble on the North Yard near the J Buildings at the start of each day (Year 7 parents - these buildings are near the main student entrance and staff will be on hand to help).

Year 8 - Lofthouse building. Students should assemble on the Middle Yard near the Lofthouse at the start of each day.

Year 9 - Rooms 1 to 6 and the Technology corridor. Students should assemble on the North Yard near to the technology rooms at the start of each day.

Year 10 - Science area. Students should assemble outside the Science Corridor.

Year 11 - Taylor building. Students should assemble outside the Taylor Building.

At the end of each day, there will be a slightly staggered exit from two points to ensure that students do not mix across year bubbles. The exit points and times will be as follows:

Year 7 – Exit at back gates from J Buildings at 2.50pm

Year 8 – Exit at front of school from Lofthouse at 2.50pm

Year 9 – Exit at back gates from Main school rooms 1, 2, 5, 6 & 9 at 2.55pm

Year 9 – Exit at front of school from Main school rooms 3, 4 & 20 at 2.55pm

Year 10 – Exit at front of school from Science Corridor at 3.00pm

Year 11 – Exit at back gates from Taylor Building at 3.00pm

To support us, please would you ensure that you don't drive down Laurel Street in the afternoon because buses will need access. Thank you, in advance, for this.

In terms of transport to school, I am aware that some students will have to travel by public transport - either via the school bus or the service bus. Please, remind your child that they have to wear a face mask at all times on school and service buses. This is not negotiable. I would ask that you consider all modes of transport to try and find the best option for your child. It may be that students can walk to school, cycle or be dropped off. If students cycle, please ensure that they have a cycle

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helmet. Please note that a bus travel survey is being uploaded to our website for relevant parents to complete. This will help us to liaise with bus companies over numbers. The link for the survey is <https://www.surveymonkey.co.uk/r/8LJLW3W>

Once on the premises, there is no need for students to wear face masks. By moving to year group zones, we are effectively creating bubbles in line with government guidance. Staff have the option of wearing face masks but only because they will be moving between zones and bubbles.

Although this is a complex time and we are encountering new ways of working, I am confident that we will be meeting all the requirements set out by the government. It has all been carefully risk assessed. We are just very, very pleased to be having students back!

Please, ensure that your child returns on the relevant day in full school uniform, with a suitable bag and a set of equipment. We cannot share equipment such as pens and pencils so students must have their own. Please, also impress on your child that it is critical that they follow the expectations at school to the letter. If students deliberately disrupt or fail to follow instructions first time, then they will have sanctions applied, including exclusion where necessary. As you will appreciate, we cannot take any risks and so we expect students to conform and work with us at all times.

Finally for now, I have been asked to remind all parents/carers that foods containing nuts should not be brought on to the school site, please. Some of our students have severe nut allergies which mean that, should they come into contact with nut products at all, the consequences can be serious. Thank you for your support with this.

I realise that this letter appears to be a set of very strong instructions. As you will appreciate, I have to be clear from the outset that we are managing a delicate and changing situation. To ensure the safety and wellbeing of all, it is important that the expectations are transparent. I am absolutely sure that students will be positive and cooperative. I am also sure that parents are pleased that students will be back full time.

Thank you for your support. I will update you in due course should there be any additional information to share. If not, I look forward to welcoming all students back in very soon.

Very best wishes,

Ella Brett - Headteacher

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