



13 July 2020

Dear Parents and Carers

COVID-19 Update – Return to School in September

I hope you are keeping safe and well.

Further to my letter dated 2 July 2020, the government guidance is that **all students are to return to school in September:**

'We are, therefore, asking schools to prepare to welcome all children back this autumn. While coronavirus (COVID-19) remains in the community, this means making judgments at a school level about how to balance and minimise any risks from coronavirus (COVID-19) with providing a full educational experience for children and young people. School attendance will therefore be mandatory again from the beginning of the autumn term.' DfE July 2020

It is important to remember that while all students must return to school in September, COVID-19 will still be with us and we must all take the necessary precautions to avoid spreading the virus. We will obviously continue to do everything we can to keep all staff and students as safe as possible while in school.

We are currently in talks with the school bus company and as it stands, they are expected to operate as normal and I will update you if there are any changes. Please continue to ensure your child follows the government guidance when travelling to and from school and you may find the following link useful: [guidance/coronavirus-covid-19-safer-travel-guidance-for-passengers#travel-safely-during-the-coronavirus-outbreak](#)

We will be preparing for the return to school with a range of COVID-19 secure measures in place, which will include:

- Year group bubbles
- Designated areas at break and lunch times
- Staggered break, lunch and school finish times
- Social distancing where possible when not in bubbles
- Hand sanitisers for regular use in all corridors and classrooms
- Extra cleaning rotas in place throughout the day
- Signage to continually remind staff and students to be COVID-19 alert.

While the first day of term will be staggered to accommodate the arrival of the new Year 7 (details to follow for individual keys stages), the school day thereafter will start as usual at 8.25 am. Lesson arrangements will be as close to normal as possible and school uniform must be worn. Sixth formers must also adhere to the dress code. Finer details of the arrangements for each key stage will follow by letter from Mrs Howells and Mr Goddard.

Be The Best You Can Be

If any student or member of staff does show COVID-19 symptoms while at school they will be isolated and sent home as soon as possible. Please follow the link below if any member of your household shows COVID-19 symptoms: ['stay at home: guidance for households with possible or confirmed coronavirus \(COVID-19\) infection'](#).

As I mentioned in my previous letter to you, September is a few months away and I am sure there will be much speculation in the press as to whether it goes ahead and what final measures we need to put in place. We will therefore monitor the situation closely and write to you again if there are any changes to the return to school procedure.

I would like to thank you all again for your hard work, home schooling and supporting the school through this most challenging of times.

Wishing you all a safe summer and I very much look forward to welcoming all our students back in September.

Take care and stay safe.

Kind regards

Ian Smyrk
Headteacher