

16 July 2020



Inspiring Optimistic Learners

Dear Parent/Carer,

As we approach the end of a unique and challenging summer term, I'm sure many of you will be looking forward to taking advantage of those areas in which the lockdown are planned to, or have recently, eased. I'm also aware that you may be anxious to see what the 'new normal' may look like for your child in September.

As communicated with you last week, a significant amount of planning has been ongoing to prepare for the College's full reopening in September. This week all staff have been in College to receive updates and training in preparation for the new Academic Year, and to ensure that everything is in place to welcome back your child in as safe and a controlled environment as possible to minimise their risk of contracting the coronavirus (COVID-19). Final details have still to be confirmed and will be sent to you in good time to help both you and your child prepare.

What I can share with you at this point is that year group "bubbles" will be formed and kept separate, as much as possible, in designated zones on site (including indoor and outdoor spaces). These zones include areas students will enter and exit the College building, where they will be taught, have comfort breaks and their lunch. There will be a change to a horizontal tutor group system in which your child will be with other children from the same year group only; information on your child's new tutor and head of year were e-mailed to them on 15th July. Staggered times at the start and end of the school day have been considered but are challenging due to the number of children using public transport. It is currently planned for your child to continue to be taught the full curriculum, but some practical activities such as science experiments and geography field trips may be limited. An outline of the new College day is given below for your information:

- 0845-0915hrs – Years 7, 8 and 9 Tutor Time
- 0850-0915hrs – Years 10 and 11 Tutor Time
- 0855-0915hrs – Years 12 and 13 Tutor Time
- 0915-1015hrs – Lesson 1
- 1015-1145hrs – Lesson 2 (includes a designated 20 minute comfort break)
- 1145-1245hrs – Lesson 3
- 1245-1415hrs – Lesson 4 (includes a designated 30 minute lunch break)
- 1415-1515hrs – Lesson 5 (Years 10, 11, 12 and 13 to finish at 1520hrs).

We understand the change of timings and routine will take a little for students to get used to and for it to be fully embedded. There will therefore be a phased reopening in the first week back in September to familiarise both students and staff to the new routine so when the College reopens to all year groups simultaneously the risk of the transmission of the coronavirus will be minimised. Details on the phased reopening of the College in September are as follows:

- Thursday 3rd September – College INSET Day – Staff Only
- Friday 4th September – Years 7 and 12 only
- Monday 7th September – Years 8, 11 and 13 only

- Tuesday 8th September – Years 9, 11 and 13 only
- Wednesday 9th September – Years 10, 11 and 13
- Thursday 10th September – Years 11, 12 and 13 only
- Friday 11th September – Years 7, 11 and 13 only. Note there will be College photos for Year 7 students taken on this day
- Monday 14th September – All year groups return.

The requirement to wear face masks or coverings has recently been gathering momentum, but the government's guidance has remained unchanged in that it is not currently recommending they are routinely worn in schools. Your child will need to wear a face mask or covering if they use public transport to get to and from school. If they wish to wear a face mask or covering during the College day this is acceptable provided the mask or covering has nothing that may cause offence to others printed on it. It is recommended that all students be prepared to return to College with a face mask or covering in the event there is a further change to the government's guidance, or if the College requires students to wear them for a particular activity; this similarly applies to staff.

We are expecting students to wear full College uniform when they return. This should be washed regularly to help reduce the potential risk of the coronavirus being transmitted. Further details on this, and the requirement to bring their own equipment such as pens, pencils, rulers etc, will be contained in a booklet that will be published and sent to you shortly. I would encourage you and your child to read our expectations document to manage the risk of COVID-19 transmission which can be found [here](#).

I will write to you again next week to provide more details on how the College will be operating from September, along with any further updates to help your child's transition to the 'new normal'.

Yours sincerely,

Dr Jeremy Plumb

Headteacher