

July 2020

Dear parents/carers,

As we approach the end of term, I wanted to start by thanking you for your overwhelming support during this unprecedented time of lockdown. The numerous messages of encouragement and thanks have been gratefully received as we have all tried to navigate our way through circumstances that none of us could have predicted at the start of 2020.

Looking forward to September, we are delighted that the Government has announced its intention to have all pupils back in all year groups. As you can imagine, the advice for reopening is extensive and every decision that we make will be made with the health and wellbeing of both our pupils and our staff at the forefront of our minds.

It is my intention to write to you again in the final week of August, but I have outlined below the broad principles of our return. It is worth noting that attendance will be mandatory from the beginning of the autumn term.

For all year groups we intend, wherever possible, to follow the same broad and balanced curriculum that would have been on offer pre-Covid-19.

Teaching and Learning

Key Stage Three (Years 7-9)

Each form group will be allocated a specific room, with Year 7 on the top floor, Year 8 on the middle floor and Year 9 on the ground floor. Pupils will spend the majority of their time in the same room and their teachers will move to them. There are some obvious exceptions to that (e.g. PE). This will allow us to create classroom 'bubbles' within a larger year group bubble.

Key Stage Four (Years 10 & 11)

Each year group will be allocated a dedicated area of the school, but there will be more movement between classes. This will allow the students to follow all of their GCSE courses and learn in the appropriate sets and tiers (e.g. English, maths and science; foundation or higher). Years 10 and 11 will therefore operate within year



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group bubbles and have wider access to the resources of the school (e.g. keyboards, DT facilities etc). These details will be confirmed before our return in September.

Equipment

Clearly there will be no sharing of resources outside a 'bubble' and any sharing of any resources within a bubble will be kept to an absolute minimum. It goes without saying that enhanced cleaning guidance will be adhered to and a full risk assessment put in place. It will be essential that your child is equipped and sent to school in September with the following named items:

- Blue and black pens
- Pencils
- 2B pencils (for art)
- Colouring pencils
- Calculator (Casio FX-85GTX Scientific Calculator or FX-83GTX)
- Glue stick
- Ruler
- Rubber

We will provide each child with a whiteboard, a whiteboard pen, a purple pen and a named plastic wallet. We will ask that all equipment is kept in their wallets at school and handed out at the beginning of each day.

The beginning and end of the school day

In order to reduce footfall and encourage social distancing, children will be asked to arrive at school at the following times:

Year 7	between 8.30am and 8.40am
Years 10 & 11	between 8.40am and 8.50am
Years 8 & 9	between 8.50am and 9.00am.

Each year group will be allocated a separate stairwell to keep movement in and around school within year group bubbles.

We would strongly recommend that your child does not bring a mobile phone into school, however if they choose to, they will be handed in and collected as normal in the small hall.

At the end of the day, pupils will be dismissed as follows:

Years 10 & 11	3.30pm
Years 8 & 9	3.35pm
Year 7	3.40pm

Breaks and lunchtimes

Every week, on a rotational basis, each year group will be allocated a dedicated space to play during breaks and lunchtimes. We are fortunate to have clearly marked spaces for this purpose: the MUGA, the field (when the weather is kind), the playground, the garden area and the roundabout. As usual, staff will be on duty during breaks and lunches to make sure that the groups do not mix.

We will continue to provide school dinners, but you may feel more comfortable supplying your child with a packed lunch. In order to manage the 'bubbles', the lunch 'hour' will be extended and some year groups will collect their lunch and eat it in their classrooms. Lunch rotas are as follows:

Year 11	11.10am
Year 7	11.35am
Year 8	12.05pm
Year 10	12.35pm
Year 9	13.05pm

Extra-curricular clubs

Initially we will not be offering extra-curricular activities, although this will be reviewed weekly. We will reintroduce breakfast club and homework club when we feel that it is safe to do so.

When I write again at the end of August, I will reflect any updates to the Government advice, but I thought it would be useful to outline for you at this time how we see the full return to school being implemented.

May I take this opportunity to wish you and your family a very healthy and peaceful summer holiday.

Yours sincerely



Francis Galbraith
Principal