

Start of term (Sept 2020) briefing sheet - Students and Parents - The New Normal

Thank you all for the work you have done through lockdown. As you know, we will be opening in full in September. Below is a summary of the major alterations. I am sharing this now so that parents can begin to plan for the changes in the school day that come into effect in the next academic year.

The balance of risk is now overwhelmingly in favour of children returning to school. For the vast majority of children, the benefits of being back in school far outweigh the very low risk from coronavirus (COVID-19), and the school will take all necessary steps to reduce risks still further. We have developed a detailed plan for all children to return and start to reverse the enormous costs of missed education. This will be an important move back towards normal life for many children and families. We will balance and minimise any risks from coronavirus (COVID-19) with providing a full educational experience for children and young people that enables them to thrive and progress. We will minimise the number of contacts that a student has during the school day to reduce the risk of transmission.

There is a clear process that we will follow if anyone develops coronavirus (COVID-19) symptoms while at school. This guidance has been developed with advice from PHE. We are committed to creating an environment for children and staff where the risk of transmission of infection is substantially reduced. We have thoroughly reviewed our health and safety risk assessments and drawn up plans for the autumn term that address the risks identified using a system of controls. Essential measures include:

- a requirement that people who are ill stay at home
- robust hand and respiratory hygiene
- enhanced cleaning arrangements
- active engagement with NHS Test and Trace
- formal consideration of how to reduce contacts and maximise distancing between those in school wherever possible and minimise potential for contamination so far as is reasonably practicable

From 1 August, subject to a continued decline in the rates of community transmission of coronavirus (COVID-19), even the small number of students who will remain on the shielded patient list can also return to school, as can those who have family members who are shielding. While we understand that some parents and carers, particularly of students with significant risk factors, may have concerns, we do need to be clear that from September students of compulsory school age must be in school unless a statutory reason applies (for example, the student has been granted a leave of absence, is unable to attend because of sickness, is absent for a necessary religious observance etc). We look forward to welcoming back your child in September. If you have any questions or concerns that you would like to

discuss, please contact your child's Phase Leader or leave a message at Reception this week and we will get back to you.

Curriculum

- We will teach our full timetable and therefore full curriculum in September, however as extra time will be needed for hand sanitising and cleaning along with students travelling further to lessons, teachers are being asked to plan for 40-45mins of learning time rather than the usual 50 minutes.
- Staff will continue to teach their full timetable but should try wherever possible to maintain a safe distance from students and place themselves, where possible at the front of the classroom. Students' work can still be collected and marked. The school day will look slightly different to allow us to stagger start and finish times.

The new look school day

Timings	Y7	Y8	Y9	Y10	Y11	Y12	Y13
Am reg 08:30 - 08:45							
P1: 08:45 - 09:35		Arrive for start of p1 go directly to lessons					
P2: 09:35 - 10:25				Arrive for start of P2 go directly to lessons		Arrive for start of P2 go directly to lessons	
Break time 10:25 - 10:40	In zoned areas - no food on sale						
P3: 10:45 - 11:35							
P4: 11:35 - 12:25	Go to lunch at 12pm	Go to lunch at 12pm					
Lunch: 12:25 - 13:05			Lunch	Lunch	Lunch	Lunch	Lunch
P5: 13:05 - 13:55							
P6: 13:55 - 14:45	Leave site at the end of P6						
Pm reg: 14:45 - 14:55		Leave site after PM reg					
P7: 14:55 - 3:45				Previously missed P1 lesson		Previously missed P1 lesson	

Mitigating the risk of transmission

- There will be a one-way system in school. Staff will be briefed on this on the INSET day and students on their first day back. This will make full use of the outdoor spaces. Student movement between rooms in the building will be minimal. Staff can move through the corridors, but social distancing should be maintained.
- Tutor rooms will be grouped together in year group bubbles. This minimises the risk of transition and will allow pastoral staff to move quickly between rooms when supporting students.
- Uniform expectations will alter. Students will wear a full Grey Court PE kit on days where they have PE or if they are participating in an extracurricular activity that requires a PE kit. On other days usual uniform will be worn but the summer polo shirt will be allowed until the October half term. Changing rooms facilities will not be available.
- There will be enhanced cleaning protocols with two additional cleaners working through the day to clean communal areas. Students and staff will routinely wipe their own workspaces at the end of a lesson so it is clean for the next person. Sanitised wipes will be provided for this.
- Students must bring all their own equipment. Where possible, classrooms will be reconfigured so desks are facing forwards.
- Visitors to the site will be limited, until the government guidance changes we will not be able to host events and parents will be discouraged from coming into school. Communication with all stakeholders will continue but this will be done via phone calls or online meetings.

Behaviour and Standards

- It is everybody's responsibility to protect and minimise the risks to all stakeholders. Instruction will be clear and constantly reinforced. To allow the teaching of the whole curriculum we need the support of students and parents when adhering to the expectations of the new normal
- Expectations of behaviour/attendance/punctuality will remain very high. There will be an addendum to our behaviour policy (as is in place for those currently in school) to incorporate Covid-related incidents and our sanctions. This will be done by September.
- Callbacks will not be utilised during this period. Instead, we will operate a centralised detention system which will be based on year groups and run by senior and pastoral leaders. Where necessary we will use Saturday detention. Full details of this will be issued to students in September.

Eating and recreation times

- Areas will be zoned at break and lunchtime and students must stick to the allocated areas. Each zone will have access to food service at an allocated time or in an allocated area. Each zone will also have its own allocated toilets. There will be an

increased leadership presence at changeover times to ensure any cross contamination of bubbles is limited.

- Students and staff will be strongly encouraged to bring their own packed lunch - especially during the initial weeks as the new catering regime settles in. Food will not be served at break time. Food will be available to buy at lunch time, but this will be pre-packaged and available for students and staff to collect, to limit cross-contamination. Initially students will be asked to sanitise their hands prior to collecting their food and then again immediately after paying to minimise any risk associated with the scanning of thumb prints.
- Tutor times and allocated pastoral times will be as important as ever. Assemblies will be virtual, with tutor groups tuning in or viewing during their pastoral time.
- Extra-curricular opportunities will be extensive but must be conducted in year groups. Without trips and the normal array of fixtures this will be essential in terms of student participation and engagement. A full list of all extra curricular activities will be shared with students and parents in September.
- We strongly encourage students to walk or cycle to school - there are additional bicycle racks ordered. Only those who live further than two miles away should consider using public transport to get to school. As is now routine, students will sanitise their hands when they arrive on site.
- Subject leaders will ensure that there is access to learning through our remote platforms so students who are absent can continue to access a high level educational provision.

Despite all of the aforementioned alterations, we are extremely excited about welcoming back our wonderful students in September. We have complete confidence in the functionality of the school and will, as ever, be going above and beyond to ensure that your child receives a truly outstanding educational provision.

Please refer to this [link](#) for next year's term dates and individual return dates for specific year groups.

Yours faithfully



Chris Rhodes
Headteacher