



Ref: YPE/era

Date: 21 July 2020

Dear Parents and Carers

As we come to the end of this extraordinary academic year, I write to update you on our preparations for re-opening in September to all year groups.

It has certainly been an eventful four months, with the entire nation having to adjust at short notice to the extreme demands of the Covid-19 pandemic. We are exceptionally proud of our school community and how well everyone has adapted to the changes and challenges we have faced. Most importantly, we would like to thank you for the tremendous support you have given your child and the school throughout this time.

From 1 September, we begin a new phase; and in line with government directives, we are making changes and adaptations to ensure the safe and smooth running of the school.

Return Dates and the School Day

We are planning for a phased return from 2 September, as outlined below. This will enable us to settle our new Year 7 students into the school and prioritise our GCSE students. Students will return as follows:

Wednesday	2 September	Year 7 and Year 11
Thursday	3 September	Year 7, Year 8, Year 9, Year 10, Year 11 and Year 13
Friday	4 September	Year 7, Year 8, Year 9, Year 10, Year 11 and Year 13
Monday	7 September	All years, including Year 12

To reduce movement around the school and to help minimise the need for further hygiene practices, we have changed our timetable from 5 to 3 periods per day.

Start	End	Activity
08:40	08:50	Arrival / Hygiene
08:50	10:30	Period 1
10:30	11:00	Break
11:00	12:40	Period 2
12:40	13:15	Lunch
13:15	14.55	Period 3
14.55	15.05	Staggered dismissal

Health and Safety

You will undoubtedly appreciate that health and safety is of the utmost importance and will continue to be a whole-school priority in September. All risk assessments are currently being updated, considering the necessary adaptations for wider re-opening.

The school will be operating enhanced hygiene protocols, with extra cleaning staff on additional rotas. Everyone will be expected to wash or sanitise hands regularly throughout the day and comply with social distancing rules.

The timetable has been designed to allow full curriculum coverage whilst creating 'bubbles' for each year group. Year groups will be zoned into separate buildings and students' lessons will take place within these zones. Students will also be in year group zones during unstructured time, staying in specified group areas throughout break and lunch.

Curriculum

Students will be taught an ambitious and broad curriculum. Teachers will be focusing on immediately identifying gaps in learning and rapid catch-up. Year 7 to 13 will all study their normal range of subjects, with GCSE and A Level students working towards their full range of qualifications.

Year 7 will be following a tailored transition curriculum which will also carefully consider the potential for missed primary school learning.

Assemblies, Character Development and Community time will be streamed into individual classrooms and year-group bubbles.

We will be delivering our normal provision for EHCP and other SEND students, with some adaptations where required (e.g. interventions will need to take place within bubbles).

Behaviour and attendance

As you know, we have high expectations for the young people in our school.

We are making some additional amendments to our behaviour policy to guarantee the very best engagement with learning and to highlight that inappropriate behaviour will not be tolerated. It is key that in returning to school students immediately adopt positive behaviours and respect the necessary protocols for the safety of all.

It is the expectation that all students commence the academic year in full school uniform. The government has made it very clear that school attendance will be mandatory from September. We will be encouraging and rewarding good attendance in our usual way, because we know how vital school attendance is to the success and happiness of young people.

Our school will close to students at 3.00pm on Wednesday 22 July for the duration of the holiday. However, senior staff will be working over the holiday period to put the necessary arrangements in place for September. We will write to you again on 25 August with all the final details. Until then, wishing you and your families a very enjoyable summer.

Yours faithfully



Ms Y Peden
Headteacher

