

Principal: Lorna Leventhal

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Dear Parents and Carers,

I want to thank you for your support and patience during the shutdown. When we closed our doors to all but a few pupils in March, we did not expect such an extended period of closure.

We are delighted to be welcoming all of our pupils back in September and I want to share some changes we are making to ensure that we are Covid-secure. A detailed breakdown of our new operating procedures and risk assessments are be available on our website (click here).

It is critically important that anyone who has symptoms, or lives with someone who has symptoms, self-isolates and obtains a test as soon as possible. Significant changes have been made in school to reduce the risk of infection, but still allow all pupils to access the full curriculum with specialist teachers.

The key principles are as follows:

- Pupils will remain in year group 'bubbles' at all times.
- Each year group has been allocated an area of the school where almost all of their lessons will take place. They will also have their own areas for lunch and break
- Arrival times, lunch and break times are staggered, to ensure year groups remain separate
- Pupils will be seated in rows, facing the front of the class, to reduce risk of viral transmission
- Hand gel is available in every classroom and all key areas, to be used every time pupils move locations
- Teachers and other staff members will maintain at least 2m distance from all pupils and colleagues where possible
- Microsoft Teams will be used as an alternative to large gatherings, such as assembly
- Enhanced cleaning is in place throughout the day.

We are asking our teachers to work in a very different way, so we will be having three training days in September to ensure we are ready to operate safely when pupils arrive.

On Friday 4th September, we will welcome, year 7 and 12 only, to give our new pupils time to settle.

Years 8, 9, 10, 11 and 13 will begin the term on Monday 6th September. More details will follow closer to September. There will be different start times for each year group the first day, these will be included in the letter you will receive at the end of the summer break.

From September, *year 7, 8 and 9* will need to arrive on site by 8.30am, ready for tutor time at *8:40 am*. They will depart at *3:00pm*.

Years 10, 11, 12 and 13 will need to arrive in time for lesson 1 which starts **9:00am**. They will depart after tutor time at **3:20pm**. Siblings will be allowed to arrive early or depart late to accompany each other to and from school if necessary.

Initially there will be no enrichment slot on Wednesday afternoons, so every day will finish at the times stated above. This will be reviewed at the October half term.

Initially, there will be no activities before or after school, including access to the library. Pupils should not arrive on site too early and must leave promptly at the end of the day. We hope it will not be too long before our fantastic wide range of opportunities will be on offer again.

I encourage you to keep an eye on our website, as we will do our best to keep it up to date with the latest information. We will be in touch before the start of September with more detailed information.

I hope you all have a wonderful summer.

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We look forward to seeing all of our pupils, new and those returning, in September.

Warm Regards

Lorna Leventhal