

14<sup>th</sup> July 2020

Dear Parent

As promised, I write to explain to you the plans we have in place for our full school reopening in September, to provide detail about exactly what your child can expect and to outline the arrangements for the first day of term.

### **Safety Measures**

We are very much looking forward to welcoming your child into school and we have been planning hard to make sure that the return to school is as safe as possible. The key measures that we have taken in order to keep your child, our staff and all our families safe are as follows:

- Your child will stay with their own year group throughout the school day, including at breaks and lunchtimes. This reduces the number of contacts they might otherwise have within a “normal” school day. In order to make this happen we have created a staggered start and a staggered end to the school day. There will be separate breaks and lunchtimes for Key Stage 3 and Key Stage 4 and separate outside, social and eating areas will be allocated to each year group. Precise timings and an example of what the school day will look like for your child are in the information sheet attached to this letter.
- Students in Years 7 to 9 will remain in their form groups for all lessons, reducing the number of significant contacts they have even further. Years 10 and 11 will continue to be taught in sets so that we can accommodate their option subjects. The full range of subjects will be taught, but there will be restrictions on activities in some practical subjects such as Technology, Music and PE.
- A range of hygiene measures are in place, including extra cleaning during the school day and hand sanitisers outside each entrance to the school building and within each classroom. Antibacterial wipes will also be provided in classrooms and students will be asked to wipe down any shared equipment (such as computers) before and after use.
- Although we cannot always keep students 1 or 2 metres apart from one another, we have arranged classrooms to provide as much social distancing as possible. Students will not be sitting in groups and will not be “face to face” unless there is a perspex screen to provide protection. Teachers will remain at least two metres away from students and from one another; students will notice that there will be perspex screens on each teacher’s desk.
- Some areas of the building will have a strict one-way system in place and some of the usual corridor access will be closed. This is to encourage students to use routes outside the building, deemed to be safer, as much as possible.
- Our Behaviour Policy has been modified to emphasise the need for students to stick to our safety measures and to follow all health and safety instructions for the good of all our community.

### **Precautions:**

Of course, our students and their parents have important roles to play in helping to make school as safe as possible. We ask that you:

- Do not send your child into school if they have any symptoms of Covid 19, such as a cough, high temperature or a loss of taste or smell;
- Tell us immediately if your child has symptoms, so that we can work with the NHS Test and Trace programme;
- Encourage your child NOT to use public transport if at all possible especially where walking or cycling is possible;

- Do not enter the school site unless by prior appointment. If you wish to bring your child to school, please do not drive onto the school site.

We will follow Public Health England advice if there is any sign of an outbreak of Covid 19 within our school population and this may lead to partial closures as we go forward, perhaps of a year group or an individual form group. We will, of course, keep you well-informed and will provide high quality remote learning for any students forced to stay at home as the result of any suspected outbreak.

If we all remain vigilant and take as much care as possible, the return to school should be a safe and enjoyable experience for the students. Nevertheless, we realise that some students (and parents) will be anxious about returning after such a long absence. In order to make sure that ALL students feel confident and safe, we are making special arrangements for the first week of term.

### **Start of Term Arrangements**

Our new Year 7 will be in school for two days (Tuesday, 1<sup>st</sup> September and Wednesday, 2<sup>nd</sup> September) from 10.00am until 3.00pm. This differs from the original start date for this year group as we are bringing them in on what would have been a staff training day so that they can have a full 2 days of “settling in” before the other students arrive in school.

For Years 8, 9, 10 and 11, the first day of term will, as planned, be Thursday, 3<sup>rd</sup> September. For this first day back, we are staggering the start of the day for all students. This is to enable a safer entry into school and to enable us to speak to each year group separately about the detailed changes that have been made in school before they begin lessons. The timings **for the first two days** will be as follows:

Year 7: 8.35am – 2.40pm  
Year 8: 9.00am – 2.45pm  
Year 9: 9.30 am – 2.50pm  
Year 10: 10.00am – 2.55pm  
Year 11: 8.30am – 3.00pm

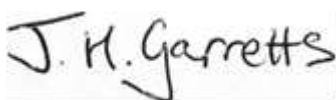
Please note that all students will be expected to wear full school uniform. We will also be following DfE instructions on students’ use of face-masks. At present, the guidelines state that students must remove face-masks when they arrive at school but that may well change over the course of the summer holiday. We will, of course, keep you informed if the guidelines do change.

### **The “New Normal”**

From Monday, 7<sup>th</sup> September, the “new normal” day will be in place. I have attached a separate information sheet with the details of what your child’s school day will look like. Please note that the information will be slightly different for each year group; if you have more than one child, a separate information sheet will have been sent for each child’s year group. The information has been written as a guide to students, but we would be grateful if you would go through it with your child prior to September, to help put their minds at rest.

Finally, I would like to thank you for all your support over the last few weeks and months. Hopefully, the days of home-schooling are behind us and we are looking forward to the return of our wonderful students to what has become a very boring, almost empty building! In the meantime, have a good summer and stay safe.

Yours sincerely



MRS J GARRETTS  
Headteacher