



As you know, we have been focusing for some time on how to ensure that our school can safely open to all pupils in September – something we are all so much looking forward to. Now that the government has published its guidance for schools, we are in a position to update you on our plans. Please **be assured that the safety of our students and staff remains our number one priority**. The information presented below is in direct response to both government and LEAD Trust guidance.

The first thing to say is that we are delighted the government has said all pupils can come back. We have learnt a lot in lockdown about how to deliver virtual education, and families and staff have been outstanding, but children need the routine of normal school life and they also need to see their friends and teachers. It is vital that we get pupils back to school in September, and the **government has made attendance compulsory**.

Having already done a lot of preparation, we are in a very strong position for the autumn term. There are some significant changes to normal school life which I outline below but every child will have access to full time education and the full school curriculum.

Here are the five main ways in which we will be establishing a safe return to school for all children:

1. It is the government advice that all children should **walk to school if it is at all possible**. If this is not possible then they should consider cycling and our covered area (locked in the day) is available for students to store their bikes. Finally, if neither of these options is possible then students might have to take public transport. In this case they will be expected to wear a face mask and store this in their own personal bag during the day.
2. **School will start at different times for different year groups**, but everyone will be supervised to sanitise their hands thoroughly upon arrival. **To ensure security and adherence to arrival times**, we are asking that all children **arrive via the MAIN SCHOOL ENTRANCE (off St. Andrews View) in their allocated arrival window**. The Oakwood and Back gates will not therefore be open. Please support us with this decision in the understanding of the added security and access monitoring that it provides. Once pupils are in school, they will be encouraged to wash/ sanitise their hands regularly, including before and after they eat and on leaving our site.

The timings of the school day are presented on a separate page for your convenience and allow us to support a staggered start and end to the day. Please help us to keep everyone safe by ensuring that your child arrives at school within the relevant time allocated.

3. Students will be placed in a protective bubble. Bubbles will not come into prolonged, close contact with each other, which will help keep the school safe. For example, students in **KS3 (Years 7-9) will be in a year group bubble and then in the same tutor group class** for every lesson. In **KS4 (Years 10 & 11) students will be in year group bubbles**. Staggered breaks and lunchtimes will also help keep bubbles apart.
4. There will be significantly less movement within the building as **we will keep students in one place as much as possible and ask staff to travel between classrooms**. For example, in KS3 students will only move classrooms in order to access IT computer rooms and sports areas.
5. There will be **different break and lunch times** to help reduce contact between students. This will mean that bubbles will have a break at the same time, but year groups will be allocated different outside areas for break times so that mixing is greatly reduced. This also means we will have a different food offer at break and lunch. Break will include individually wrapped/ secure snacks and lunch will be in a 'grab bag' format.

In addition, please note the following:

- All students **MUST** have a **school bag** from September. This is to ensure personal equipment and school work is not shared and is kept safely with each child
- Students should come to school in their PE kit on the days when they have PE
- All students should bring a coat
 - Breaks/ lunchtime will be outdoors
 - Opportunities to be outside during lesson time will be taken where possible
- Students will also be lining up outside in between all lessons. This is to alleviate any frustration of being in one room for the whole day as well as to maximise exposure to fresh air

To explain these rules to children and implement our plans effectively we will not open to all year groups at once in September. Instead we will re-open gradually with all children being back in full time education by Monday 14th September 2020. Details when the academy will re-open for your child is also listed on the separate page.

Every child, and every home, has had a different experience with lockdown and home learning. Whilst we know the majority of families will be delighted that schools are reopening, there may be some parents or pupils who feel anxious about returning: if this applies to you, please do not suffer in silence. You should contact us as soon as you can and we will work with you to ensure you feel reassured that all your concerns have been addressed.

In addition to the safety measures set out above, we are well prepared in terms of securing the wellbeing and academic progress of pupils – both those who have not been able to return to school this term and those who will be taking important public examinations next year. We recognise that there will be learning gaps to be addressed when the pupils return and have planned a ‘recovery’ curriculum for the autumn term so that everyone has the chance to catch up. We will also ensure there is time devoted to the emotional wellbeing of pupils.

We will of course need your help and support to keep school safe as we return to school. Obviously if your son or daughter, or somebody else in your household, has coronavirus symptoms they should stay at home until tested. Likewise, the government guidance says that if there is a confirmed case at school, then we should work with the relevant health authorities to ensure that everyone who was in close contact with them when they were infectious is notified and self-isolates.

The summer term has been long and tiring for families and staff, but it has also been inspiring and uplifting. The whole community has pulled together to ensure pupils felt safe and supported, and we have shown just how much can be achieved in the most difficult and challenging of circumstances. No matter what your experience of lockdown, parents have been terrific: on behalf of all staff, we want to thank you for everything you have done to support your children’s success over this period, and to support our school.

Yours faithfully,



Mrs Katie Roberts
Headteacher