

Coronavirus - Frequently Asked Questions

1. Do all students now have to attend school?

Yes. Attendance to school is mandatory from September. The school should be contacted as usual in the event of any absence. Where students are not able to attend school because you are following clinical and/or public health advice, absence will not be penalised. All other students must return to school.

2. What will Year 7, 10 and 12 students do on the first day back?

Year 7, 10 and 12 students start on Thursday 3rd September.

Year 7 students should arrive at 8:40am. On arrival they should sanitise their hands and move to the sports hall where they will be allocated their tutor group and then have an extended tutor session, followed by a number of activities and some lessons.

Year 10 students should arrive at 10am. On arrival they should sanitise their hands and move to their allocated area and then they will have an extended tutor session, followed by a number of activities and some lessons.

Year 12 students should arrive at 12:40pm for a 6th form student meeting.

3. What will happen on Friday 4th September, the first day back for Year 8, 9 and 11?

All Year groups are in school on Friday 4th September.

Students should arrive no earlier than 8am when the gates open on the first day. They will sanitise their hands and move to their designated area. They will then be taken to their tutor room where they will have an extended session outlining their timetable, new procedures and plans for the year. Lessons will continue as normal from Period 2.

4. What equipment will students be allowed to bring to school?

Students should have their own pens and pencils and they must not share them. They should only bring essential items into school such as; lunch boxes, hats, coats, books and stationery. Bags are allowed and lockers can be used. Tutors will check student equipment each day. Students must bring their own mask to school.

5. Do all students have to wear masks?

Yes, unless they are medically exempt. All students should wear a mask on the way to school if using public transport and in corridors and communal areas. Guidelines have been followed to ensure that students do not need to wear masks in classrooms. Students should dispose of masks in lidded bins or store them in a plastic bag in their bags.

6. Will the restaurant and café be open?

Yes but with a significantly reduced menu and only at specific allocated times. The restaurant is cashless and payments should be made to ParentPay. Masks must be worn whilst waiting or collecting food and observe social distancing.

7. Will school times be the same?

The start of the day will be the same but to aid getting students to the appropriate zones safely we encourage all students to be on site by 8:40am. Lesson times during the day have been adjusted to avoid crowding and support social distancing. Students will have five lessons per day. The end of the day has a staggered time to help reduce crowding.

Year 7 and 10 will be dismissed at 3:20pm

Year 8 and 12 will be dismissed at 3:25pm

Year 9 and 11 will be dismissed at 3:30pm

8. What should students do if they have Coronavirus symptoms?

Students **must not come into the school** if they have coronavirus symptoms, or have tested positive in the last 10 days. Symptoms are:

- A high temperature
- A new, continuous cough
- A loss or change to your sense of smell or taste

All persons with coronavirus symptoms are eligible and **must** get tested. The school must be contacted in the event of any absence.

9. Will students still need to change for PE?

On days where students have PE they should wear their PE kit to school, to avoid the use of changing room. Please check the uniform guidelines to ensure that they have the correct kit. All uniform regulations, including PE kit, will be monitored closely and we will follow the schools behaviour policy for students not following our high standards.

10. Will students be in 'bubbles'?

Yes. All students will be in year group bubbles using different areas of the school during lessons and during break times. On occasions, where a specialist classroom is required, such as a Science room, students will move outside of their bubble. However this classroom will be cleaned before and after it is used.

11. How have classrooms changed?

All classrooms have a hand sanitising station for use at entry and exit. Lidded bins and tissues are also available in all classrooms. Desks have been arranged in line with current guidance to ensure all students are facing forward in rows. Doors and windows will remain open where possible.

12. Will students still be taught all subjects?

Yes. Students will still study their usual subjects and be taught by a subject specialist. The timetable has been changed to reduce student movement around the building and so teachers will often move to different lessons rather than students. Assemblies will be delivered 'virtually' in the first half term.

13. Do students need to have their uniform washed more often?

No, additional washing is not recommended under current guidance. Uniform can be washed normally when needed. Reusable face masks should be washed daily.

14. Will extra-curricular clubs begin as normal?

There will be no extra-curricular provision for the first two weeks of term as we establish new routines and procedures. This will then be reviewed. Sports fixtures with other schools will not take place in the first half term to support social distancing. Limited wrap around care places are available and can be booked via parent pay. Please see attachment for further details of this.

15. How are you supporting handwashing and additional general hygiene?

Students will be advised of our new procedures in their virtual assembly at the beginning of term. Hand sanitising stations are to be used upon entry to the school site at the gates, all buildings and all classrooms. Students will sanitise their hands at the beginning and end of each lesson and at breaks and lunch. Cleaners will work during the day to provide additional cleaning to communal spaces and surfaces. A one way system is in place in the building to prevent crowding. Masks will be worn in corridors and in the restaurant and café.

16. Can students use public transport?

We are all encouraged to walk or cycle to school where possible. Students can use public transport and should wear a mask if they do.

17. What do I do if I have concerns or questions?

Please get in touch with us straight away. This is a challenging and difficult time and we must work together. Please do remember that parents are not allowed on site without a booked appointment, so please do get in touch by phone or email.