

14/07/2020

Dear Parents and Carers

I hope you and all your families are safe and well.

When we started the 2019/20 school year, I thought the biggest event would be a visit from OFSTED, little did I, or anyone else know what a school year it would be.

The challenges for us all cannot be put into words however, we do all know it has had a devastating impact on each one of us. No school year has ever ended this way, no exams, no prom, however, all we can now do is to look to the summer break and then September.

On 2nd July, the Government updated their guidance for schools, which stated a clear intention that all students would return to school in September. [DFE 2nd July guidance for full school opening](#)
We know this is necessary. Like all of you, we worry about what the students have missed and we understand that homework and on-line work is no substitute for the real classroom.

We intend for all students to return in September, but we have had to make significant modifications in order to ensure the safety of both staff and students. This may change dependant on Government guidance during the summer, but we will ensure we keep in touch with you as much as possible.

For September, we will be trying to get as close to normal as possible, while still ensuring we meet the Government expectation. (We will send out specific details in the middle of August)

- Years 7 and 12 will start back on Friday 4th September
- Years 8, 9, 10, 11 and 13 will start back on Monday 7th September

You should have already received a separate “parentmail” regarding this summer’s exam results days.

- We will have a staggered start for all students from 8.15 with an extended registration.
 - Year 7 & 8 will need to arrive between 8.15 to 8,30am
 - Years 9, 10 and 11 will need to arrive between 8.45am to 9.00am
 - Sixth form will only come in for their lessons
- They will come in from different entrances, detail will come out during the summer, but unfortunately our Morrison’s entrance will not be available.

- Students will be kept in Year group “bubbles.” They will start their day in a “home room” with their form tutor and then stay there for most of their lessons. Teachers will come to them, to deliver lessons, which will cut down on movement.
- Lunch will be eaten in the “home rooms” and will either be, sandwiches ordered from the canteen, or packed lunch.
- Students will have an outdoor, recreation period (and a break time) where year groups will remain separate. For these sessions, PE kit won’t be required, only trainers. On poor weather days, it is vital that they have waterproofs and umbrellas, as there won’t be the spaces inside for them.
- We intend to cover all subjects however, lesson times will be reduced slightly and some lessons won’t be able to take place in specialist rooms.
- We will expect all students to be dressed in full school uniform. Unfortunately, **we will not be able to provide/loan any uniform** during this period.
- Punctuality will be vital, as we have to ensure these year groups are kept apart.
- There will inevitably have to be some change to make this work. Mr. Smith will be making contact mid-August regarding updating the home/school agreement.
- Students will also end their days with form tutors in their homerooms and have a staggered dismissal.
- Any detentions will be in single year groups.

We intend this model to continue until October half-term, then depending on government guidance, we may or may not revert to more “normal schooling” arrangements.

This model, whilst not being ideal, will ensure that all students return to school and return to full education. Whilst we have all done our best to make on-line learning work, we all know it isn’t a substitute for teaching and learning in a classroom environment.

I’d like to thank you all; staff, parents and students, for making this difficult time work as well as you could. School has been a very unusual place since March and we are all looking forward to welcoming students back, safely, in September.

Have as good a summer as you can. I will write to you again in mid-August with greater detail.

Best wishes

Tim Body
Headteacher