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**September Arrangements for Year 9**

Our aim in September is to keep things as normal as possible and to keep everyone as safe as possible.

Our overall strategy is designed to minimise the risk of transmission of Coronavirus whilst delivering a full curriculum. Our approach is in line with the guidance published by the Government on 2nd July where it is made clear that risk remains low if students are grouped in bubbles, effective cleaning regimes are in place, everyone follows strict hygiene routines and distancing measures are in place.

Year 9 will be in their own ‘bubble’ in school and remain in the Year 8 zone for all of their lessons apart from PE. Teachers will move between zones so that year group will have access to their full curriculum.

There will be a staggered start and end of the day to help minimise contact between students in different bubbles.

**Start Date** – **Wednesday 2nd September at** **11.15am**

**Start Time** – Students should aim to arrive in school at 11.10am

**Entrance –** Rear Stairwell Doors

**School Day**

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|  |  | Location |
| 8.45am | Arrival | Enter via rear stairwell doors |
| 8.50am | Registration | Form Room (same as last year) |
| 8.55am | Period 1 | Year 9 Zone |
| 9.55am | Period 2 | Year 9 Zone |
| 10.55am | Break | Rear Yard (wet break in Drama Studio) |
| 11.10am | Period 3 | Year 9 Zone |
| 12.15pm | Period 4 | Year 9 Zone |
| 13.15pm | Lunch | Dining Hall/Tennis Courts (wet break in Drama Studio) |
| 13.55pm | Period 5 | Year 9 Zone |
| 3.05pm | End of Day | Exit via rear stairwell doors |

Students will be taught in their form groups in the same room for all lessons apart from English, Maths, French and Science. All lessons will be taught within the Year 9 zone. After 4 weeks Year 9 will swap their start and finish time with Year 8 – 8.40am start and 3.00pm finish. **Please note that the Scholars service has been moved by 5 minutes to accommodate this.**

**Break & Lunchtime**

Students will remain in their Year 9 bubble designated areas during break and lunchtime. Break time will be slightly shorter due to their later start and the need to move students back into the building as safely as possible.

Food will not be available at break time for Year 9, although we will be reviewing this after 2 weeks, so it may well be worth your child bringing a snack into school if they cannot wait until lunchtime.

**Hygiene**

Every classroom has a wall mounted hand sanitiser unit. Students are required to use the sanitiser as they enter and leave every classroom.

Students should ensure they wash their hands thoroughly for 20 seconds when they go to the toilet.

If your child uses public transport, then they will need to use a face mask. Once off the bus/metro students should place the mask in a plastic bag inside their school bag for disposal or cleaning at home. They should have a clean mask for the return journey.

**Considerate Distancing**

The government guidance recommends that schools create bubbles to reduce the risk of transmission of the virus in schools. Students do not need to socially distance with one another in these bubbles but d**istancing measures do need to be maintained between staff and students due to the higher risk of adults developing severe symptoms** and also because teachers will move between the different zones in the school. It should also be noted that we have a number of staff who are clinically vulnerable or clinically extremely vulnerable meaning that distancing is essential.

We are calling this Considerate Distancing in line with our Fit for Life attributes of being Resilient, Skilled and Considerate. To achieve this, teachers will have slightly different movement times around the building to students and each classroom will have a staff area. This will be an unusual experience for students as the teaching and support staff will maintain a 2 metre distance where possible meaning that the usual small group and individual interaction will not occur in the same way.

We have arranged classrooms, where possible to have forward facing desks to further minimise risk.

Students requiring support from our teaching assistants will be seated in an accessible area for staff so that they can support at a minimum of 1 metre plus distance.

The measures we have put in place will help to make sure that Considerate Distancing can work, but the measures will only be fully effective if students adhere to them. We will not tolerate students deliberately ignoring these measures or engaging in activities that put others at significant risk. Our Behaviour Policy has been updated to reflect this.

**Toilets**

Students are not allowed to go to the toilet during lessons unless there is a medical reason. Year 9 toilets will be the identified cubicles in the upstairs suite of toilets in the main building.

**Uniform**

Full uniform should be worn every day to school apart from days when your child has PE when they should wear their PE kit to school. This is to avoid use of the changing rooms as we are unable to put in place an effective cleaning regime in the short time between lessons.

**Extra-Curricular**

Extra-curricular activities will take place from September. These will take place within year group bubbles. Information will be shared with students and published on our website.

**Support**

Students with SEN will continue to receive appropriate support in lessons and in small groups, which will be broadly similar to what they have already experienced. Students who need support in class will be seated so that Support Assistants can work with them whilst maintaining a safe and considerate distance.

We recognise that some students may find the transition back into school difficult. There could be a wide variety of reasons for this and contact throughout the lockdown by your child’s Head of Year means that we do have a fair idea of who may need support. Our learning mentors and other pastoral staff will be in place and ready to support any students who may need it and we will use assemblies and for time as a wellbeing check in.

We will also be providing extensive programmes of catch up for all year groups. The majority of this will take place in lessons alongside some home learning, but some students may well receive additional support through various interventions that we have planned.