

Dear Parent/Carer

Thank you for your patience in waiting for information about what will happen in September. Since the receipt of the guidance on 2nd July, we have been working hard to put plans in place that, we believe, allow for the best educational experience possible for our young people whilst also keeping everyone as safe as possible.

I apologise for the length and detail of this communication but I am sure you will appreciate the necessity.

In recognition of the fact that most young people will not have been in college at all for over 5 months by the time we return in September and that Year 7 will have had limited transition, there will be a staggered start to the term. Whilst I appreciate that some families may feel frustrated that we appear to be prolonging the absence of students from school, we strongly believe that this relatively short delay will ultimately result in a more effective return to school for all. The full programme is attached and the dates of return are outlined below. Students must use their designated entry point from their arrival on day one. (See the relevant year group section below.)

Year Group(s)	Date (08:40 for 08:45)
Year 7	Tuesday 8 th Sept
Year 8	Wednesday 9 th Sept
Year 11	Thursday 10 th Sept
Years 9 & 10	Friday 11 th September

There are a number of controls that schools are being asked to put in place that mitigate the need for social distancing as we currently understand it in our daily lives. The key ones are:

1. Minimising contact with those who are unwell with coronavirus symptoms.

Students should not attend the site if they, or someone in their household, are experiencing symptoms. The school should be notified of the reason for their absence, a test taken and the school notified of the result. Should a student begin to display symptoms whilst on site, they will be isolated and supervised until a parent/carer can collect them.

2. Clean hands thoroughly and more often than usual. Ensure good respiratory hygiene by promoting the 'catch it, bin it, kill it' approach.

Students will not only be reminded about handwashing but will be required to hand sanitise on entry to and exit from all inside spaces. Hand sanitiser will be provided by the college in every space but students can also bring their own.

3. Introduce enhanced cleaning, including cleaning frequently touched surfaces often.

The college will have cleaners on site throughout the day to clean toilets and touchpoints.

Schools are then also required to consider how they can best minimise the number of contacts and maintain social distancing where possible. Where social distancing cannot be maintained this then becomes a 'bubble' and the members of that bubble must be known. In order to control the virus it must be possible to contact trace.

As a small school with plenty of outdoor space between buildings and very few internal corridors we are well placed to be able to manage a full reopening of the site without having to restrict the learning experience of our students. We will zone the school so that each year group has their own 'home zone' where they will be taught as many of their lessons as possible (English, maths, history, geography, RS, MFL, PSHE, IT, some music, tutor and some science) thereby reducing movement around site. Instead, teachers will travel from space to space as dictated by the timetable. (See the relevant year group section below.)

For subjects that require specialist spaces and equipment (technology, catering, art, drama, PE, some music and science practical) students will move to those rooms as dictated by their timetable. These spaces are not used as a year group home zone, they are reserved to ensure that students can still have high quality access to a broad and balanced curriculum. Movement within these spaces will be managed to ensure bubbles do not mix, although they may need to pass briefly in an outdoor space.

Classrooms will be reconfigured (wherever possible) to ensure forward facing, side-by-side seating as outlined in the government's guidance. Sharing of equipment should be reduced as far as possible and so, now more than ever, it is important that students come to school fully equipped with everything they may need including items they would normally borrow in school such as highlighters, scissors and glue sticks.

Each year group will have their own dedicated external social space. As we do not know how long we will be required to operate like this and as we approach the winter months I can only advise a good quality waterproof coat. There are no easy answers when it comes to indoor spaces that comply with regulations once the weather turns inclement.

The canteen will be open with adjusted operating systems and time slots allocated by year group (see the relevant year group section below). Although we are confident that we can deal with the numbers of students and are keen to maintain a hot food provision, there will be no seating available – it will be 'grab and go' – and families are asked to consider a packed lunch if possible.

The situation with regards to changing rooms for PE is currently still under review. If they remain out of bounds then students will attend college in their PE kit on the days they have PE. We hope to be in a position of clarity during the first week back. It is important to note that this needs to be the correct college PE kit (i.e. no hoodies, branded leggings or branded shorts). The PE kit is part of the uniform and the wearing of incorrect items will be dealt with in the same way as any other uniform infringement: sent home to rectify or isolated for the day.

Extra-curricular clubs will continue (with some modifications) and these, in turn, will become bubbles with strict monitoring of attendance so that members of that bubble are known for the purposes of contact tracing. The same applies to those students who travel on Devon County transport – although the buses contain students from across the year groups, the individual students are consistent and so this, again, becomes its own bubble.

Our consistent aim is to return to a school day that is as normal as possible for our students whilst also adhering to the guidance and so minimising the risks. To support us in this, it would be greatly appreciated if you can limit your visits to site to those that are essential and respect social distancing rules should you need to attend.

On the first day all year groups (with the exception of Year 7 who will meet in the Millennium Hall) must make their way to their home zone where there will be staff and signage to tell them which room their tutor base is. Students who are required to wear face masks to travel on public transport will need to use their own sealable, plastic bag to dispose of or store their used face mask until they return home. Face masks cannot be disposed of in college waste bins.

Year 7

Entrance/Exit	Main Reception Gate (student reception on 7 th Sept only)
Home Zone	Rooms 1 – 4
Social Space	Quad and lower right field (behind the garden)
Canteen Slot	11:05-11:20

Year 8

Entrance/Exit	Staff Car Park Gate (near maths)
Home Zone	Rooms 42-46
Social Space	Basketball court and lower left field (next to the court)
Canteen Slot	11:20-11:35

Year 9

Entrance/Exit	Main Reception Gate
Home Zone	Rooms 11,12, 14 & 15
Social Space	Area around MFL bock and upper field
Canteen Slot	13:35-13:50 (hatch end)

Year 10

Entrance/Exit	Staff Car Park Gate (near maths)
Home Zone	Rooms 32-36
Social Space	Area between tech/humanities and half of the Astro
Canteen Slot	13:35-13:50 (servery end)

Year 11

Entrance/Exit	Student Reception
Home Zone	Rooms 8, 9, 61 & 62
Social Space	Area between tech/ICT 2 and half of the Astro
Canteen Slot	13:50-14:05

On a slightly unrelated note, we have decided not to complete the final set of progress data and attitude to learning grades of the year. On balance, we felt that this kind of 'judgement' was not appropriate in the current context. Whilst we know that many of our students have made good progress and maintained excellent attitudes to their remote learning, we are in no position to judge that an apparent lack of engagement reflects a poor attitude as there are so many other factors at play for our young people.

Teachers will be assessing students on their return to college to inform their planning and teaching. This is a normal and ongoing part of our good practice here and nothing to be anxious or concerned about. All students and their families will have formal feedback about their attainment levels within the first term and Year 11 will receive their first set of forecast grades within the first half term.

Finally, all of the above is subject to change if the guidance changes so please make sure that you look out for any further messages from me as we near the start date.

Have a lovely summer and thank you for your ongoing support.

Yours faithfully

Rachel Wickham
Headteacher