

Questions from parents

Q. Should students wear face coverings?

A. Government advice is as follows

“(Face coverings) are not required in schools as pupils and staff are mixing in consistent groups, and because misuse may inadvertently increase the risk of transmission. There may also be negative effects on communication and thus education.

“Face coverings may be beneficial for short periods indoors where there is a risk of close social contact with people you do not usually meet and where social distancing and other measures cannot be maintained, for example on public transport or in shops.”

The government has today confirmed there are no plans to change this advice. So, students should not wear face coverings in school. However, school will do individual risk assessments where parents inform us of critical health vulnerabilities and we will work with parents to ensure that individual circumstances are taken into account.

Q. Can the return to school be more staggered – one year group per day?

A. We will give this some consideration. However, we need to bear in mind that Sixth Formers have to enrol during this period. We would like to see every child back in school during the first week because they have been off school for so long. If we cannot stagger the start more we will ensure that some more time is given to inducting them during their first day. This will include

- A video assembly on the new arrangements
- A walk around the one-way-system in groups of no more than 15
- A walk through canteen arrangements in groups of no more than 15
- Opportunity for students to ask questions
- The video will be repeated every morning for the first week

Q. My daughter will arrive on the bus at 8.30 but her lesson will not start until 9am. Where should she go?

A. If her classroom is not yet open, she can go to the canteen either for food or simply to sit. The canteen will be supervised.

Q. When can students get their bike from the bike sheds?

A. Year 7/8 can get their bikes at 2.45. Year 9/10 at 3pm and year 11,12,13 at 3.15. There will be a member of staff on duty near the bike sheds at the end of school.

Q. Will there be bubbles for year groups to separate them from other year groups?

A. At the start and end of the day there will only ever be two year groups at a time entering or leaving, via separate exits, in separate “bubbles”. At lunchtime there will only ever be two year groups having lunch at any one time – again in separate bubbles. Students will be taught all their normal lessons in their normal rooms, always in separate year groups. Students will be supervised by senior staff as they move between rooms. This way, we can

ensure students have a normal day, with their normal curriculum, with lots of protective measures in place, separate from other year groups.

Q. Will students have their temperature checked on the way into school?

A. No. We are aware that some schools have introduced this measure, however the technology is not reliable enough to be relied upon. All parents will be asked to sign a Home School Agreement that clearly states that students with symptoms should not come into school. All students will be greeted on entry by a senior member of staff.