

COVID19 – Essential Information Concerning the Return to School in September

We are all really looking forward to returning to school in September and are keen to ensure some 'normality' for students and a return to the routines of their education. Following government guidance, we have put together a document which outlines the full range of procedures we will put in place to minimise the risks of Covid19 in our school. The document is available on our website.

Please note, it is expected that all students return to school in September, including those currently shielding or living with someone currently shielding. The government require schools to follow the normal guidelines for dealing with absence.

To support you in preparing your child for their return to school, I have noted some key information below. I realise there is a lot of information but would ask that you please read carefully and discuss with your child.

- We have put in place two social 'bubbles'. One for Y7 students and one for KS4/5 students. We will work to ensure that students in the different bubbles do not mix and staff maintain 2m distance from students wherever possible. To allow for this we have slightly different start and finish times and differing lunchtimes.
- **Y7 students should arrive at 8:15, and other groups at 8:25.** Students should arrive promptly and after washing their hands, make their way to their lessons.
- Students using public transport will be required to wear a mask. They will be asked to remove and dispose of their mask (or store it in a sealable plastic bag) without touching the front of it, before sanitising their hands and entering the building.
- Students will be asked to regularly wash their hands, including after they visit their locker in the morning, at each lesson changeover, before and after eating and at the end of the day.
- All students are returning to school full time. Until further notice **we will not offer** UTC Extra. Students in KS4/5 will therefore finish each day at 15:10. Students in Y7 at 15:20. This will allow students to travel home on public transport before peak times. It is essential that students clear the building quickly and begin their journey home.
- Students in KS5 are asked to remain at home where they have Self-Organised Learning. KS5 students will **not** be allowed off site to get lunch elsewhere, they will therefore either need to bring food from home or purchase food in our restaurant.
- Classrooms and other shared venues will be sanitised between use by differing bubbles.
- Students are required to bring their own stationery to school each day, including a pen, pencil, ruler, eraser, and calculator as loaning equipment will heighten the risk of infection spreading.
- Students are asked to bring a bottle of water for use throughout the day. Drinking fountains will **not** be operational.

- As you would expect our normal cleaning routines have been enhanced with a focus on shared areas and frequently touched surfaces.
- To minimise queueing, the restaurant will be serving 'grab and go' food only until further notice. There will not be plated meals. Please ensure your Parent Pay account has sufficient funds available.
- Students should not bring unnecessary items to school. PE Kits **must** be taken home and washed after each use.
- Students are expected to wear the full school uniform – there is no requirement to wash more frequently or to wash with particular detergents.
- Students will follow a one-way system when moving around the UTC, walking on the left-hand side and using the main atrium staircase to move up the building and the rear staircases to move down the building.

In addition to this, we would ask for your support with the following:

- If you wish to speak to a member of staff, please call reception and arrange a return telephone call – please **do not** come into the building.
- Until further notice, Parents' Evening events will be conducted via telephone appointments. Further details will be sent to you as necessary.
- If dropping off and collecting students from school, we ask that you identify appropriate meeting places a short walk away from the UTC to avoid unnecessary congestion.

What to do if your child is ill

- As is the case in normal circumstances, if your child is ill, you should contact reception to notify them of the absence that morning.
- **Students with symptoms of Coronavirus** should remain at home and self-isolate until a test has confirmed they do not have Coronavirus. Parents will be able to book tests through local health services.
- If your child tests positive for Coronavirus, you **must** notify the school immediately and then follow the normal isolation procedures. To ensure we minimise the risks of infection, all members of the school community, including parents, are required to fully engage with NHS Track and Trace. Where the school identifies an individual that has tested positive, we will notify Public Health England, who will advise us on the necessary school response measures.
- If your child becomes ill at school with symptoms of Coronavirus, we will isolate them in a well-ventilated room until you are able to come and collect them. Students in this situation **cannot** use public transport. The school will be given a small number of home test kits and we

will supply you with one where available. Please notify us of a test result as soon as you receive it.

- In the event of a student or group of students being required to stay at home and isolate, a programme of remote education will be available.
- Teachers will use the Online Curriculum (Y7) and Show My Homework to distribute learning and video recordings of the day's lessons and will require students to submit work electronically. It is expected that students at home will work for the same length of time on the same topics as those in school each day. Please do all you can to support us in maintaining your child's education.

Please be assured that the safety of the school environment is our highest priority. By each of us adhering to the measures we have put in place, we can minimise the risk of infection within our school community. Thank you in advance for your support.