



Verulam School
Excellence · Character · Respect

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15th July 2020

Dear Parents/Carers

I am writing to explain the approach we will be taking to enable a safe return to school for all pupils in September. The Department for Education's guidance asks us to "*prepare to welcome all children back this autumn...providing a full educational experience for children and young people.*" A link to the DfE guidance can be found [here](#).

After careful consideration, we have decided to adopt an approach that maintains a full curriculum, but also adheres to the core public health advice regarding:

- *a requirement that people who are ill stay at home*
- *robust hand and respiratory hygiene*
- *enhanced cleaning arrangements*
- *active engagement with NHS Test and Trace*
- *formal consideration of how to reduce contacts and maximise distancing between those in school wherever possible and minimise potential for contamination so far as is reasonably practicable*

The guidance also states that how contacts are reduced will depend on a school's circumstances and will (as much as possible) include:

- *grouping children together*
- *avoiding contact between groups*
- *arranging classrooms with forward facing desks*
- *staff maintaining distance from pupils and other staff as much as possible*

As a school, we have therefore decided to adopt the following approach. Subject teachers will teach the normal timetable and curriculum but students will remain within their year group before school, in lessons and at break and lunch. Students from different year groups will not mix socially.

Years 7 and 8 will operate as "bubbles" based for the most part in separate zones of the school. They will remain for much of the time in their own classroom only moving for specialist subjects. Teachers will move between lessons rather than pupils moving. This will ensure that social distancing and bubbles are maintained.

At Key Stage 4 and 5 (Years 9 to 13) students will move between lessons in the normal way but following a strictly enforced one-way system.

Further details of the arrangements for your son or daughter's year group, key rules for September and a map showing year group zones and entrances are attached. Mr Flack will also be publishing a video explaining these arrangements in August. I would be grateful if you could watch this with your son or daughter before their return to school.

There will of course be some changes to our routines but we are determined to provide a challenging curriculum including sport, practical subjects and extra-curricular activities. The following changes will be important to ensure the safety of students and staff:

- Year groups will arrive by different entrances and wait in designated zones for entry into the school building
- Year 7 and 8 will remain with their teaching group for most of the week only changing group or room where necessary for specialist subjects or sets
- Constant reinforcing of new systems to students and reminding them to **Keep your Distance**
- We will insist on the regular cleaning of hands and surfaces and the use of hand sanitiser/hand washing on arrival
- There will be extensive cleaning throughout the day of toilets and frequent touch surfaces
- Students will wear normal school uniform each day, however, on days when they have PE/Games they should come to school in PE/Games kit
- Public Health England does not recommend the use of face coverings in schools but they are required on public transport
- Break and lunch will be closely supervised with designated zones for each year group
- We will minimise the use of hard resources such as text books, to avoid contact through touch
- Games and PE lessons will take place with new guidance on health and safety
- 6th Form consortium students will move between sites, masks will be worn on the BSV minibus
- Parents must not gather at the school gates or enter the site without prior appointment

I will publish the full risk assessment for these arrangements and further health advice in August.

As we look forward to the summer break, I thought it wise to remind parents of the need to ensure that students are able to return to school on the first day of term. This means that if you are planning to travel to any country that is not exempt from the quarantine measures, you should return to the country by Wednesday 19th August. The details for the first day(s) of term are given below:

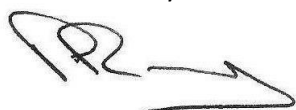
Thursday 3 rd September	Timings for the day	Entry via
Year 7	Arrive 08.30am – Finish 3.30pm	Brampton Road pedestrian gate
Year 12	Arrive 08.30am – Finish 12.30pm	Jennings Road
Friday 4 th September	Timings for the day	Entry via
Year 7	Arrive 08.35am – Finish 3.30pm	Brampton Road pedestrian gate
Year 8	Arrive 11:00am – Finish 3.30pm	Brampton Road main drive
Year 9	Arrive 11.15am – Finish 3.30pm*	Jennings Road pedestrian gate
Year 10	Arrive 11.30am – Finish 3.30pm*	Jennings Road pedestrian gate
Year 11	Arrive 11.45am – Finish 3.30pm*	Jennings Road main gate
Year 12	Arrive 08.30am – Finish 3.30pm*	Jennings Road main gate
Year 13	Arrive 08.50am – Finish 3.30pm*	Jennings Road main gate

**nb departures will be slightly staggered to enable social distancing*

I would like to take this opportunity to thank you for your support and to congratulate our students on their resilience and hard work during closure.

I am looking forward to welcoming students and staff back safely in September.

Yours sincerely



P A Ramsey
Headteacher