



11th September 2020

Dear Parent/Carer

The majority of students have now returned and I am so proud of how students have settled back in to school. Students have adapted to the new way of life at Garibaldi and have picked up the new routines exceptionally quickly. There is a real air of calmness and a really productive feel around school. Can I also, at this point thank parents for their ongoing support and feedback which has contributed to ensuring that students and the school have been so successful in re-opening.

We have made lots of plans for students returning since March. Having seen these plans in action and having put them into practice over the last couple of weeks, I am in a position to make some minor tweaks to the operation of the school.

I will start with the caveat that systems and processes are all subject to change and based on both the Government and Trust guidance. It is also important to note that we all have different viewpoints on COVID and regulations associated with it. I cannot please all stakeholders with decisions and have to operate on what is best for the school community as a whole with the most up to date information available to me on local and national context. You must trust, that I act with the best interest of students, staff and the community at all times and that I will follow the advice and guidance that I receive that is relevant to our school. Ultimately, students will be provided with the best educational experience possible and the changes made are to ensure continuation of provision.

Face masks

I will start with the most controversial aspect first. From Monday 21st September, **all** students should be wearing face masks at all times other than when in class and when eating. This includes lining up to enter school. If your son/daughter is unable to wear a face mask due to:

- A physical or mental illness (including anxiety) or impairment or disability
- Your child relies on the lip reading, sound or facial expression to communicate

then please complete a small form located here:

https://forms.office.com/Pages/ResponsePage.aspx?id=LuLr9FO180SIVj4NhJCOuJ-8P_RQrc9Mh1poD7U8mvBUNjIOWjBFV0Q2QURGRUNRREVTTVNLU1QwQi4u

by Wednesday 16th September 2020 at 5pm and we will provide your son/daughter with an exemption wristband.

The Garibaldi School | Garibaldi Road, Forest Town, Mansfield, Nottingham NG19 0JX
Telephone: 01623 464220 | Email: office@garibaldischool.co.uk | Website: www.garibaldischool.co.uk
Executive Head Teacher: Ryan Hawley BSc (Hons), QTS, NPQH | Head of School: James Aldred BA, QTS, NPQH

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Students will be reminded at the end of lessons and in public spaces to put face masks on. I have purchased a small plastic wallet for each student to store face masks in when not in use, to keep them clean. These will be given to students when they arrive in school.

It is worth noting, students spend minimal time in face masks as the majority of time they are in class.

Water

Water fountains are available for use at lunchtime for students to refill bottles. The fountains will be sanitised between each person using it. Bottled water is also available to purchase at breaks and lunches if required.

PE

From Monday 21st September, it is my intention that students will start to participate in some practical PE lessons. The curriculum has been modified to ensure that equipment is not shared between bubbles and all sports studied will be non-contact. All PE lessons will take place outside.

Students will receive a PE timetable in their PE lessons, week beginning Monday 14th September. This outlines which lessons over the course of the week will be theory and which will be practical. When students have a practical PE lesson, students should come to school in PE kit and must wear their school blazer on top of it. We cannot currently open changing facilities but students will have a dedicated space to store belongings. Not all PE lessons will be practical and it is important that students only wear kit on practical days, as determined by their teacher.

If there is inclement weather, students will undertake a theory PE lesson but should still wear their PE kit for these days.

Students have looked really smart since returning to school and I need to balance this with still having access to a broad curriculum. We have tried, where possible, to ensure there is time between the days students will have practical PE, for kit to be cleaned; this is not always possible.

COVID Symptoms

Finally, and another big thank you to parents and students, the attendance of students to school has been amazing since returning with the whole school attendance nearly reaching 97% cumulatively. This is a remarkable achievement. I wish to continue this trend as every day in school really does make a difference.

We are entering cough, cold and flu season and some people are still experiencing symptoms of hay fever. These symptoms should not prevent students from coming into school.

However, if your son/daughter displays the symptoms below, please contact the Government COVID booking system for a test to be arranged and contact Miss Hill, our Student & Family Engagement Officer ehill@garibaldischool.co.uk at school to inform us that this is the case where she will also advise on next steps.

- high temperature – this means you feel hot to touch on your chest or back (you do not need to measure your temperature).
- a new, continuous cough – this means coughing a lot for more in an hour, or 3 or more coughing episodes in 24 hours (if you usually have a cough, it may be worse than usual).
- a loss or change to your sense of smell or taste – this means you have noticed you cannot smell or taste anything, or things smell or taste different to normal.

Thank you anticipation of your support and best wishes for now.

Yours faithfully

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'J Aldred', written over a horizontal line.

Mr J Aldred
Head of School