



October 2020

Dear Parent/Carer

I hope, as always, that this letter finds you well?

I would like to take the opportunity to thank you for your ongoing support of the school, particularly during our first half term of returning and working slightly differently in response to the pandemic.

The students have returned with a real focus this half term and I am really proud of how well they have settled into new routines and systems and how hard they are working in class. As our half term holiday approaches, I am certain that students are ready for an opportunity to relax and refresh ready for the run up to Christmas.

Now we have completed a half term, as always, I like to take stock and reflect on what we have done and how we have done it and to find opportunities for doing things even better if at all possible given the very challenging circumstances we are working in. Below, I have provided some updates on refinements we will make in readiness for students returning after the holiday. I would really appreciate it if you could spend some time discussing these with your children in readiness. As always, my caveat is that this is subject to change according to updated guidance and procedures.

Entering and Exiting School & Timings of the School Day

Students have adapted well to staggered start and finish times, breaks and lunches and where to enter and leave site. There will be some slight modifications to this to get students into school slightly quicker and reduce the number of students at the front of school.

Firstly, there is a slight change to entry and exit points. Students should not come onto site further than as listed below until staff on duty send students to class.

From After ½ Term
Year 7 and 8 will use the main school entrance.
Year 7s should come immediately down the path and queue from the gate at the bottom of the driveway, rather than queueing at the front of school.
Year 8 should queue in the current position until Year 7s have entered.
Year 9 and 10 will use the driveway next to the hub.
Year 10 should come straight down the driveway next to the hub and wait at the white line.
Year 9 should queue at the entrance at the top of the drive until Year 10s have entered.
Year 11 will use the gate near the bus stop, leading to the LRC. They should come straight onto site and wait at the white line.
Year 12 and 13 will enter through the 6 th form block.

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As a result of additional entry points, the times for entering school are below. Exit times remain the same. Students should leave via the same exit that they entered school.

	Year 7	Year 8	Year 9	Year 10	Year 11	Year 12/13
Start time	8:35	8:40	8:40	8:35	8:35	8:35
Finish time	2:50	2:55	3:00	3:00	3:50	3:00
Friday Finish Time	1:35	1:40	1:45	1:40	1:45	1:45

Any student arriving at school past 8:45 will be marked as late.

Continuation of Provision

As you will have seen in the news, the rate of infection in Nottinghamshire, in line with the national picture has increased rapidly. I wrote to you on Monday 12th October to inform you that we had our first cases within our school community and we had to take action determined by Public Health England.

I have to make it clear, that the communication I release in relation to COVID cases is set by Public Health England and not myself. I can only release letters and communication as instructed by them. Any student directly impacted by any cases will be informed separately.

When Public Health England determine the students who need to isolate from school, we will set work via the Teams platform. Students should follow their timetable. For example, if on a Monday Period 1, they have Maths they should enter that Teams room at that time and study Maths.

We will ensure that there are learning materials available, in line with what is being studied in the classroom, to support home learning. We will use a blended approach which may consist of live teaching, video support, presentations, resources, assignments, links to online learning platforms, our school website and other useful links. We will review our planning to ensure that students will not be sat in front of a computer for the duration of the day.

It is important to note that it will not exactly replicate the classroom experience. There will always be access to the teachers during these lessons but not every lesson will be a live lesson.

Where individual students may be self-isolating, assignments will be set via Teams for completion. There will be no live teaching in this situation but students can still submit questions via the forum for teachers to respond to at a later time. Students can also email teachers, via the school email account where applicable.

These are new and evolving provisions. Please bear with us whilst we all familiarise ourselves with it.

Face Masks & Social Distancing

From September, the wearing of face masks in communal spaces has been compulsory at school, unless exempt. Given the situation described above, I want to keep the school open and functioning as close to normal as possible. We are very fortunate that we are one of the last schools in Nottinghamshire to have reported COVID cases in school, but inevitably, cannot keep it at bay forever.

The school operates bubbles for specific year groups. Students remain with their bubbles in lessons, breaks and lunches. As a reminder, to keep students accessing the full curriculum, students do move around site to ALL of their lessons. Most movement occurs outside and is done swiftly. Therefore, bubbles are not in prolonged contact with other bubbles. This is permissible under Government guidance.

On the whole, students have adapted really well to ensuring social distancing and to the wearing of face masks. Parents do need to provide students with face masks for use in school. I am happy to keep an emergency stock in case of breakages but students really need to have their own mask in advance of entering school.

I must stress that unless exempt, all students need to wear a mask to protect the wellbeing of others. Students who fail to wear a mask in a communal space will receive a note on their conduct card. This is now mandatory as part of the uniform for the foreseeable future.

As always, staff and I, do not want to be marking students' cards but need to insist students take responsibility for this to protect staff and other students. This also applies for maintaining social distance; at secondary school students must take responsibility for this. Appropriate signage and guidance is displayed in school as a reminder to students.

Attendance

I am really pleased with student attendance this half term. A significant number of students have achieved a 100% attendance record in this first half term. Well done! Please encourage your child to attend as much as possible and I do understand students need to self-isolate. Where this is not the case, students should be in school. Should we have further cases in school, we will determine which students are affected and notify parents individually about what action to take, based on Public Health guidance. If we have not made direct contact with you, you should assume that your child should continue to come to school.

PE Lessons

We have enhanced our cleaning team further. As a result, we can operate our PE changing facilities. After half term, students in Year 9 and 10 should resume wearing full school uniform at all times. Students should bring their PE kit with them and use the changing rooms provided for changing into PE kit. Further guidance will be provided to students in Year 9 and 10 by the PE Department in readiness.

For students in other years, the current provision remains the same and they should come to school, on their directed days in PE kit and blazer.

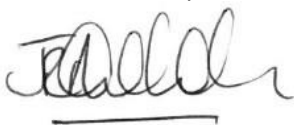
Virtual Events

As you are aware, we have to keep visitors to school to a minimum. We have moved the majority of our events so far to virtual events. Can I thank you for your attendance so far if you have attended these events?

We will continue to place videos of the events on our website for you to refer to when necessary and will continue with this provision for any upcoming events in the next half term.

Best wishes for now and thank you again for your continued support.

Yours faithfully



Mr J Aldred
Head of School