

Our Ref: AHG

13 July 2020



Dear Parent/Carer

As this extraordinary school year is coming to an end, I know that you will be all eager to know the plans for September following the Government's announcement on 23 June that all year groups will be returning to school full time.

Firstly, I would like to say that we are all looking forward to welcoming the students back to school and eager to be working with them face to face once again. I would like to take the opportunity to thank you all for your efforts in helping your children during these difficult times to encourage them to complete the online learning that has been set. This has been a steep learning curve for all involved and we have learnt many lessons from this experience, which means that in the unfortunate event that we have to return to any form of lockdown, we will be better prepared to deliver lessons to help students in their remote learning. I have personally been very impressed with the resilience shown by many of our pupils who have learnt new skills and developed their own independent learning skills, which will stand them in good stead for the rest of their lives.

Since the Government's announcement, we have been working across the Trust schools to implement plans, which will help us welcome the students back to continue their learning in a safe and a controlled environment. All of our decisions have been based on Government guidance and what we believe will work best in our individual setting.

Although all students are coming back to school, the school day will not be as students have been used to in the past. The main changes are as follows:

- There will be different start and end times for year groups. (Please see information towards the end of this letter).
- Students in different year groups will have specific entry and exit points to the school site.
- Lessons for year groups will be zoned off in specific corridors of the school, so that students are taught in class bubbles of (32 maximum), or year group bubbles.
- Year groups will have specific areas, which they will be able to use at break time.
- Lunchtime will be split into four sittings so that all students can have access to hot food whilst at the same time allowing for furniture in the dining hall to be cleaned between sittings.
- There will be increased hand washing and use of hand sanitiser throughout the day.
- An increase of cleaning of areas the students use throughout the day.

There will also be a change to the timings of the bus service from Yaxley run by Decker buses during this period of change. We are looking at a change to the route so that all stops will be on Broadway (up to five) with the children arriving at school for 8.45am. There will only be one bus so we are looking at how students will sit on the bus and reviewing expectations around the wearing of face coverings

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during the journey. We are working very closely with the company to establish routines, and because the advice from the Government changes periodically, final communication around how the service will run will be published during the school holidays towards the end of August. In the meantime to give the company an idea of numbers using the service, Decker have asked parents to contact them directly if you are considering using the service. I would just like to remind parents that this is not a service provided by the school. Decker are currently reviewing all their services with regards the financial sustainability of all routes. They have confirmed that the route will run during 2020/21.

All classrooms have been reconfigured so that desks are front facing. Students will sit side by side. They will not be able to observe social distancing in lessons, as classes are now back to the usual size of approximately 30 students per group. However, they are required to observe a two metre distance to adults working at the school, and a one metre distance to other students, when not in classrooms. Working in bubbles means that students will have reduced contact with all other students during the school day. Students will not move classrooms in Years 7 to 9, instead teachers will move around the school to deliver lessons to the students. Year 10 will be different as students will move between lessons but this will be contained within one corridor of the school, unless they are accessing specialist teaching rooms for their GCSE option choices.

The planning for this has taken a considerable amount of time, but we are confident that we are able to deliver the full broad and balanced curriculum entitlement in a safe and well-controlled manner, reducing the risks of spreading the virus.

There is still a lot of further planning to do and further information that we need to share with you closer to the start of the new term in September. We plan to give future updates via letters and videos during the summer holidays from the middle of August. A full updated risk assessment will also be available on the website for you to access from then as well.

At this moment in time, I am able to share what the start of term will look like. We will be having a phased start to the term on Thursday 3 and Friday 4 September.

On the Thursday we will be welcoming back Years 8, 9 and 10 at different time slots during the day. This will give us an opportunity to go through new timetables, student expectations and how the school day will operate. This will also allow us to have time to reassure students that school will be a safe and secure place to be. We are well aware that students have coped with these last five months with different degrees of difficulty and anxiety and they need this time to feel confident with returning to school.

Friday will be a whole day dedicated to welcoming Year 7 to the school with a full day of activities to help them settle in and meet their new teachers. This opportunity would normally have taken place with the traditional move up day, which we were not able to facilitate this year. Therefore, we feel that it is important that these students have the opportunity and time to experience what secondary school will be like ahead of all students being in school.

<b>Thursday 3 September</b>		
<b>Year</b>	<b>Arrive</b>	<b>Depart</b>
10	9.00am student entrance by the dining hall	11.00am student entrance by the dining hall
9	9.30am student entrance by the all-weather football pitch	11.30am student entrance by the all-weather football pitch
8	10.30am student entrance by the dining hall	12.30pm student entrance by the dining hall

Friday 4 September		
Year	Arrive	Depart
7	8.30am student entrance by the all-weather football pitch	3.00pm student entrance by the all-weather football pitch

On Monday 7 September the school will be open to all year groups following the full timetable.

From Monday 7 September		
Year	Arrive	Depart
7	From 8.15am for 8.30am start student entrance by the all-weather football pitch	3.00pm student entrance by the all-weather football pitch
8	From 8.15am for 8.30am start student entrance by the dining hall	3.00pm student entrance by the dining hall
9	From 8.45am for 9.00am start student entrance by the all-weather football pitch	3.25pm student entrance by the all-weather football pitch
10	From 8.45am for 9.00am start student entrance by the dining hall	3.25pm student entrance by the dining hall

In September students will be required to come to school in their full uniform. However, on the days that they have PE they will be permitted to attend in their school PE kit and allowed to wear plain coloured tracksuit bottoms over their PE shorts or skirt. Students will not be able to have access to lockers during the autumn term so we are encouraging students to bring only essential equipment, which will be required for their teaching lessons. A full list of what we consider essential will be sent out in future correspondence over the summer holidays. It is important that students come prepared for lessons as they will not be permitted to share or borrow other students' equipment.

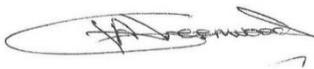
I know that this is a great deal to take in, but I wanted to give you an initial plan for the start of the year as quickly as possible. As I said earlier, we will be sending further updates towards the end of the holiday by post/email and social media posts. When you receive these can I please ask that you share these with your children so that they are as prepared as far as possible to adjust to these changes.

Information regarding the Sixth Form will be sent to relevant families later on this week by Mr Walls, Director of Sixth Form for the Trust.

We are still living in strange times and adapting to the new ways that we do things in all walks of our lives. I know that you will all work with us to ensure that we welcome back all our students, so that we can continue to prepare them for their future career aspirations.

Please try to enjoy the summer break but remember that the virus has not gone away. Take all precautions to keep safe. We look forward to a brighter future and the continued growth of our school's community.

Yours sincerely



**Mr A H Greenwood**  
Head of School