



20th July 2020

Dear Parents/Carers

I am writing to parents of our new Year 7 students to once again welcome you to the school and highlight arrangements for September following the latest government advice.

The government guidance will mean that school will be a different experience for children in September than what it would normally be. However, we need to remember this is to avert a second wave of Coronavirus and therefore it will be important to adhere to the new rules. The list of recommendations is substantial but the government has made clear that schools may follow different approaches due to the individual circumstances of each school. For Wexham we are lucky to have substantial outside space, many different teaching buildings and a school which is now designed for more children than we actually have as we expand over coming years.

Due to the nature of the school site and travel patterns of our students we do not feel the need for a staggered start or end of the day. Therefore the start and end timings of the school day will remain 8.40am until 3.10pm. We are preparing to run our normal curriculum in September with a unique timetable that assists in creating 'Year Group Bubbles' and a staggered lunch period.

On Thursday 3rd September Year 7 students should report at 8.35am to the Main School Reception. For the first two weeks of term we will dismiss Year 7 at 3.00pm, slightly earlier than the normal time, whilst parents and students are getting used to their new school.

Amended Autumn Term 2020

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| Autumn Term | Thursday 3 rd September 2020 | First Day of Term for Students in Year 7 only 8.35 for 8.40am start |
| | Friday 4 th September 2020 | Year 7 students attend First Day of Term for Year 11 Students 8.35 for 8.40am start |
| | Monday 7 th September 2020 | Year 7 and 11 students attend First Day of Term for Years 9 and 10 students 8.35 for 8.40am start |
| | Tuesday 8 th September 2020 | Year 7, 9, 10 and 11 students attend First Day of Term for Years 8 and 13 8.35 for 8.40am start |
| | Wednesday 9 th September 2020 | Year 7, 8, 9, 10 and 11 students attend First Day of Term for 12 Students 8.35 for 8.40am start |
| | Thursday 10 th September 2020 | All students attend 8.35 for 8.40am start |
| | Friday 23 rd October 2020 | Last day of Half Term – 3.10pm Finish |
| | Monday 26 th October to Friday 30 th October 2020 | Half Term Holiday |
| | Monday 2 nd November 2020 | All students attend school at 8.35 for 8.40am start. |
| | Friday 18 th December 2020 | Last Day of Term. School will operate a compact day finishing at 1pm. |
| | Monday 21 st December 2020 to Friday 1 st January 2021 | Christmas Holiday |



Uniform

Full School Uniform will be required in September. Please do ensure your child is in the correct school uniform for September. Should parents whose children are in receipt of Free School Meals require financial assistance for School Uniform please contact your child's Leader of Year to discuss this. In certain circumstances the School may be able to assist.

Some specific information. Please do remember this may change and for some areas a review will take place after a couple of weeks to assess its success.

- Any student showing signs of COVID-19 (Coronavirus) **MUST** be kept at home.
- Attendance at school from September is once again compulsory. Should any student be self-isolating due to parents or siblings having to self-isolate or they have developed symptoms you must inform the school. We will provide home learning to any student self-isolating. Absence will be marked using a new special attendance code.
- Parents need to ensure their contact details are fully up-to-date at all times in case we need to contact you urgently. Given the difficulties the country has with the pandemic it is possible that at times we may have to send students home at short notice. The government is determined that schools will not close again and therefore the bubble system should limit the need for a whole school closure. We will always follow the advice from the local authority or Public Health England should there be a positive case of coronavirus in the school.
- We encourage all students to walk or cycle to school, which the vast majority already do. Parents bringing their children to school should not be giving lifts to friends or neighbours children if they are in other year groups. On arrival at school students must not gather in mixed year groups. Very few do this anyway.
- Breakfast club will run as normal. Student numbers are manageable in order to ensure social distancing during this time. There will be specific year group tables for students to sit at.
- On arrival at school students should wash their hands or with hand sanitiser which is widely available across the school site. This is a secondary school and our students are old enough to be trusted to do this. Students should continue to wash their hands frequently throughout the school day. Hand sanitiser will be available in all classrooms, the canteen and other various locations in the school via bottles and wall units. Students can also bring their own hand sanitiser to school.
- We will be encouraging excellent hygiene in regards to tissues being available and special bins in all locations. We have employed dedicated cleaners throughout the school day who will clean high touch areas, for example, door handles frequently. Rooms will be cleaned between lessons should a change of students occur, these changes will be kept to a minimum.
- The Department of education have not instructed face coverings to be worn in schools. However, any student or member of staff wishing to wear a face mask has my full support, indeed I would encourage this and I am sure that government advice may well change for secondary schools in the near future. Face masks must only be discarded in the special pedal bins in classrooms.
- Government guidance allows students to sit side by side in their lessons and whenever possible the desks will all be facing forward. Normal class sizes will take place, following government guidance.
- One-way systems will be in use across the school. All students need to obey these rules.
- There will be no mid-morning break. There will be two lunch periods. Year 7 and 11 will have their lunch first followed by Years 8, 9, 10. Separate areas will accommodate the lunch sittings. These will be cleaned between sittings. There will be dedicated mini breaks at points in lessons to allow visits to toilets should students need this in the absence of the mid-morning break, this also allows them to be cleaned frequently.
- There will be no external trips or visits during the autumn term. We do aim to run catch up or intervention sessions for students. At this stage we are unsure of PE fixtures and training for school teams. There will be no full year group assemblies, these will be taken virtually.
- Students should bring any equipment from home to school and keep it with them all day. This must not be shared with other students.



- The school day will end at 3:10 pm. Students must not gather at the exit to the school and should promptly leave for home.
- We will be frequently emphasising to students the importance of them taking responsibility for their own health and well-being by socially distancing where required. Student must not congregate in mixed year groups, there will be virtually no time in school where this can happen BUT this includes outside of school and on the way to and from school.
- Staff have to keep their distance from students. Please reinforce to your child that they should not try to come in close contact with staff. The only exception to this would be in an emergency situation or where a child requires medical assistance where staff will be wearing PPE.

Pastoral Leadership

- Year 7 Leader of Year is Mr Hussain and the Assistant Leader of Year is Mrs Beatty.

I appreciate that these are concerning times for all us and I do not believe anyone expected schools to be closed for so long but at long last we are able to reopen. I would like to reassure parents, carers and students that much consideration has gone into our systems and processes for September. Full risk assessments will be available on our website. My aim is for the school to feel as normal as possible but with increased safety measures so that everyone on site has a positive and safe experience.

I sincerely wish you have all had a safe and enjoyable summer and I look forward to seeing your child in September.

Yours sincerely



Mr Lawrence Smith
Headteacher