

24/08/20

Dear Parent / Carer,

As we approach the beginning of the new academic year, I am writing to remind you of key information. It has certainly been an interesting summer for us as a school with GCSE and 'A' Level students eventually receiving their Centre Assessed Grades. However, regardless of the process, students, parents, staff and governors should be proud of these results. As our School continues to grow in popularity, we are looking forward to welcoming record numbers of new students into Year 7 and the Sixth Form. **In order to open the school to all students on a full-time basis in September there will be significant changes to how we operate on a daily basis.**

You may be aware of the consensus statement from the Chief Medical Officers and Deputy Chief Medical Officers of England, Scotland, Northern Ireland and Wales, released yesterday, on schools reopening. This said: *"School improves health, learning, socialisation and opportunities throughout the life course including employment.... School attendance is very important for children and young people.... We are confident that there is clear evidence from many studies that the great majority of children and teenagers who catch COVID-19 have mild symptoms or no symptoms at all".* The Prime Minister has today reiterated that *"it is far more damaging for a child's development and their health and wellbeing to be away from school any longer. This is why it's vitally important that we get our children back into the classroom to learn and to be with their friends. Nothing will have a greater effect on the life chances of our children than returning to school."*

As ever, our priority will be to ensure that students are safe, happy and successful. This letter is quite long, but contains important information regarding how we will be operating with effect from next week. Please read it carefully.

KEY PRINCIPLES

The key principles underpinning government guidance to schools are to reduce contacts through:


- Grouping children together (Year Group bubbles): avoidance of large gatherings; minimal movement around the school
- Avoiding contact between groups: staggered start and finish times; staggered breaks and lunchtimes


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- Adaptations to the classroom: arranging classrooms with forward facing desks; limiting use of shared equipment
- The curriculum remains broad and ambitious: all students continue to be taught a wide range of subjects, maintaining their choices
- Staff maintaining distance from students; students should maintain a social distance from each other wherever possible
- Minimise the number of visitors to school where possible

RETURN IN SEPTEMBER

Students will return to school on the following days and times. The reason for starting part way through the day is to allow them to go to tutor groups to collect timetables and planners in line with our new timings:

Year 7 - Wednesday 2nd September, 8.50am

Year 8 - Thursday 3rd September, 10.40am

Year 9 - Friday 4th September, 11.05am

Year 10 - Friday 4th September, 10.40am

Year 11 - Thursday 3rd September , 11.05am

Year 12 - Wednesday 2nd September, 8.50am

Year 13 - Wednesday 2nd September, 11.05am

The intention after their first day is to have all students in all the time. We have decided against a staggered start on a daily basis as many will come on trains and buses and siblings in different year groups travel together. We will however, have separate entrances for the different year group bubbles (see below).

WHAT TO BRING AND WEAR

We expect students to be proud of their school and dress accordingly in school uniform. If you are in any doubt about uniform requirements, full details are on the website under the 'school information' tab. Please note that:

- **names should be clearly marked on all garments.**
- plain black footwear is required and that school **skirts must be a modest length** (no higher than just above the knee).
- **Facial piercings and false nails are not permitted.**
- Students must **bring a full drink bottle**, we are trying to avoid too many people touching the water fillers.
- They must also bring tissues to catch any coughs and sneezes. Tissues must be taken home for disposal. Classroom waste paper bins cannot be used for this purpose.
- Students must **bring their own equipment** (pens / pencils / calculator etc...) as we will not be in position to lend equipment as we usually do.
- **Lockers will not be in use** as the locker areas are mixed year groups, so students will need **an appropriate school bag which they will need to carry with them throughout the day.**

- **On days when students have PE or Dance they must come into school in their PE kit which they will remain in all day to avoid use of the Changing Rooms.** No student will be required to wear PE kit on their first full day in school.
- We are not requiring students to wear face masks in school at the present time, though they may if they wish.

Please note that government guidance now states that uniform need not be washed more frequently than usual.

FACE COVERINGS AND TRANSPORT TO AND FROM SCHOOL

It is a current requirement that **everyone using public transport wears a face covering.** If this applies students will need to have their own plus a spare in case one is lost. It is our understanding that they will not be allowed to travel on public transport without these. If travelling on a school bus please follow the bus company's rules, specifically queuing for and sitting on the bus in year groups, wearing a mask if required and sanitising your hands on joining and leaving the bus.

If using a disposable mask these must be discarded in the same way as a used tissue (bin with a lid or disposed of at home) Cloth coverings should be removed after hands have been washed and should be stored securely. This might be a time to consider walking or cycling to school if this is at all possible.

Dropping and collecting at a convenient point en route to school rather than driving into the car park would also be very much appreciated. **There will be a new 'left turn only' policy for vehicles when exiting the car park onto Alcester Road in order to speed up the traffic flow.** Whilst the current restrictions are in place we will not be allowing visitors into the school building so please contact us by email or phone rather than coming to reception.

ARRIVAL AT SCHOOL and SEPARATE ENTRANCES / EXITS / STAIRS

Whilst the current restrictions are in place we will not be allowing visitors into the school building so please contact us by email or phone rather than coming to reception. **Students should not arrive at school before 8.30am.** They will not be able to access the building before this time. When entering the year groups must use the following doors

- Year 7 - Normal student entrance (front/centre of the main building).
- Year 8 – rear Art corridor entrance and stairs internally.
- Year 9 - rear Performing Arts entrance and using the main Reception stairs internally.
- Year 10 – front Technology / Exams entrance and Technology stairs internally.
- Year 11 - rear Sixth Form / allotment entrance and rear Sixth Form / allotment stairs internally
- 6th form – normal rear Sixth Form entrance by lockers

Students will be required to **sanitise their hands on entry and when entering classrooms throughout the day.** This is a requirement of entry to the building.

AREAS FOR DIFFERENT 'BUBBLES'

To maintain the 'bubbles' movement around school will be limited for students; teaching staff will move instead. The year groups will be taught largely in the following areas:

- Year 7 – Ground floor Science and First floor Sociology classrooms (next to the staffroom)
- Year 8 – Second floor Humanities and Music
- Year 9 – First floor English
- Year 10 – First floor Science and Maths
- Year 11 – Second floor Maths and ICT
- 6th form - PE (G85,86), G72, F46,47,48,49,73, S45,50,73, the ISC and Common Room

Tutor groups will also be located in these areas. Some movement will take place for practical lessons but as stated this will be limited.

NEW TUTOR GROUP ARRANGEMENTS

Unfortunately we have had to rearrange our vertical tutor groups as this way of working is not consistent with keeping students in a year group “bubble”. It is our intention to revert to vertical groups as soon as it is safe to do so.

NEW TIMINGS OF THE SCHOOL DAY

The school day will be restructured to reduce the number of students on break or lunch at any one time. The outline of the day is as follows:

Period 1	8.50 – 9.45
Period 2	9.45 – 10.40
B1 – Break (Y7,9,11,13) or horizontal tutor period (Y8,10,12)	10.40 – 11.05
B2 – Horizontal tutor period (Y7,9,11,13) or Break (Y8,10,12)	11.05 – 11.30
Period 3	11.30 – 12.25
Period 4: Lunch (Y7,9,11,13) Or P4 lesson (Y8,10,12)	12.25 – 1.20
Period 5: P5 lesson (Y7,9,11,13) or lunch (Y8,10,12)	1.20 – 2.15
Period 6	2.15 – 3.10

LESSONS

We will continue to deliver the full curriculum, starting the year with new topics so that everyone begins at the same place. During the year teachers will identify any potential gaps, reassure students and support them with an enhanced focus on independent learning skills. We will continue to issue lesson grades during every lesson and students receiving a ‘3’ will be kept behind for 10 minutes at the end of the day by their period 6 teacher, rather than their Form Tutor. We will contact you as soon as we are able to provide extra curricular activities.

BREAK AND LUNCH ARRANGEMENTS

As you can see from the outline of the school day, breaks and lunch will be split so that only half the students are on break or lunch at any one time. Movement around the school will be restricted with year groups required to use the following eating areas / social areas. Students will not be allowed to roam round the building as half of the school will still be in lessons at that time.

	B1 (10.40 – 11.05)	B2 (11.05 – 11.30)
Year 7	Canteen & Art & Science playground	
Year 8		Canteen & Art & Science playground
Year 9	Dining Hall & DT playground	
Year 10		Diner & tennis courts
Year 11	Diner & tennis courts	
Year 12		Common Room
Year 13	Common Room	

Please ensure that there is sufficient money on your ParentMail account for lunches. 6th form will not be allowed to leave the site during the course of the day. They may bring a packed lunch or buy food on site, they cannot go out to buy food and return.

ATTENDANCE

School attendance is mandatory from the beginning of the autumn term. Shielding advice for all adults and children ended on 1st August 2020 – this means that those who are in the shielding list or who have family members who are shielding should return to school. Where a student is unable to attend school due to clinical or public health advice, students will be expected to complete work in line with the planned curriculum by using publicly available resources like BBC Bitesize and Oak Academy. Please note that the school can only return to bespoke online Microsoft Teams lessons in the event of a year group or school closure.

COVID-19 SYMPTOMS

We will contain any outbreak by following local health protection team advice. Whilst we look forward to welcoming all students back in September **if your child presents with any symptoms of Covid-19 they must not attend school.** Should they become ill and present with symptoms during the course of the school day they will be isolated (as required, with staff wearing PPE) and you will be contacted to collect them immediately. **Please ensure we have up-to-date contact details as it is very important that we are able to contact someone immediately** and there is someone available to collect the student straight away. They will not be allowed to walk home or go on public transport. Anyone displaying symptoms must book a COVID-19 test: <https://www.gov.uk/guidance/coronavirus-covid-19-gettingtested>. Parents must inform school immediately of the results of a test. They should not return to school until they have been tested and found to be Covid free. In the event that a peer or member of staff tests positive we will contact the local health protection team and follow the advice given. This may include self isolation for a number of students in which case this group will study online until the specified time period has passed. You will be informed should the situation arise.

BEHAVIOURAL EXPECTATIONS

Clearly students must not engage in any behaviours which put the health and welfare of others at risk. Students need to appreciate the unique circumstances created by the COVID-19 situation and the challenges presented to all members of the school community. Student conduct must support everything we are trying to do in school to keep everyone safe. Whilst the school can put in measures to keep people safe the greatest requirement is on the individual to behave in a way that enables them to stay safe and also supports the safety of others. The highest standards of behaviour are expected and anything less will not be accepted.

- **Students are expected to sanitise their hands on entry to the building and when entering classrooms throughout the day.**
- We will not be enforcing social distancing within the year group bubbles however staff are required to keep a distance from each other and also from students.
- Classrooms will be arranged so students face the front where the member of staff will be situated.
- Students must respect the social distancing from staff.
- It will not be possible for staff to correct / support work beside a student as they normally would.
- At times students will remain in their classrooms as the staff move to their next lesson.
- **Students have allocated areas and are not permitted to wander around the school,** this must be observed.
- Spitting / chewing gum and poor hygiene practices including getting too close to others will not be tolerated and will result in a serious sanction being issued. **Please note that the chewing of gum will result in an afterschool detention.**

We cannot afford to become complacent in relation to these issues, if we do we risk serious consequences including the school being closed again. We are in a situation where needs of the whole community take priority over individuals. Students will have the expectations made very clear to them and we appreciate your support in doing the same to help avoid another school closure.

In the meantime, we look forward to working closely together to ensure that your daughter/son has a safe, happy and successful academic year. I am very confident that we are primed to enable our students to be even more successful. Please follow us on twitter [@StraUponAvonSch](https://twitter.com/StraUponAvonSch) or check the school website www.stratforduponavonschool.com for regular updates. Thank you for your ongoing support,

Yours sincerely



Mr Neil Wallace
Headteacher

Coming to school during a pandemic: Student protocol

We are looking forward to welcoming everyone back to school however we are returning to school during a pandemic so things are not the same. It is essential that everyone behaves responsibly for two reasons:

1. We must observe all the health and safety measures in place to reduce the risk of infection.
2. We must maximise the teaching and learning opportunities in school so that students are able to make the most of their time in school.

It is therefore vital that all students observe the following at all times:

- Bring all your own required equipment to school. This must include a full water bottle. Belongings must be carried around in a bag as lockers can not be used.
- Bring your own tissues and use these to catch coughs and sneezes. Dispose of used tissues in a bin with a lid (not a classroom bin) or take them home for disposal.
- Travel to school in a safe way maintaining social distance and year group bubbles. Anyone using public transport must provide and use their own face coverings.
- Arrive at school no earlier than 8.30
- Enter the school via the allocated door, no other door can be used.
- Hands must be sanitised on entry to the building and classrooms throughout the day.
- Stay within your allocated area unless taken to a practical room by a member of staff.
- Use only the social areas allocated to your year group. Other areas must not be entered.
- Maintain a 2 metre distance from staff where possible.
- No chewing gum under any circumstances.
- Sit in your allocated seat in lessons and face the front of the classroom.
- Behaviour in classrooms must be conducive to your own learning and the learning of others. Disruption will not be tolerated.
- Behaviour at break and lunch must be responsible and should never disrupt the lessons that are going on.
- At the end of the day leave via the allocated door. No other should be used.
- Students waiting for a bus must maintain the year group bubble and follow the direction of the staff on duty.