

Dear Parents / Carers,

**Year 10 students return to school Thursday 27<sup>th</sup> August 2020**

I hope you have enjoyed a summer break and this letter finds all of you well? We have enjoyed a busy summer at Welland Park with a very successful summer school, saying farewell to our Year 11 yesterday with the issuing of their GCSE results and of course, detailed preparations for a full return to school.

We have worked with all of the Government and local guidance to ensure that the requisite measures are in place to offer a safer working environment now that we are resuming full school operations, whilst living with COVID 19. The risk to students themselves of COVID19 is very low. There is no evidence that children transmit the disease any more than adults. The prevalence of this virus has decreased and it is vital for our students' well-being and academic progress that they return to school.

As a school we have implemented the system of controls outlined in Government guidance and a number of means to reduce contact between students. We will only ever be able to mitigate risk, we cannot eliminate it but good hygiene and minimising contact remain at the core of our strategy.

Senior leaders and site staff have worked to ensure that we can deliver a broad and balanced curriculum to all of our students within the constraints of our site. In order to address this aim whilst ensuring good hygiene and minimising contact where possible. The thorough risk assessment has manifested a number of strategies to include:

- Enhanced cleaning regime across the site.
- Introduction of one-way system to reduce congestion particularly in toilets.
- Enhanced signage to reinforce directions for entry / exit and movement around the school in addition to social distancing.
- Easy access for all classes to hygiene stations to include hand sanitisers, tissues and bins.
- Staggered entry / exit to and from the site in terms of timing and venue for all year groups.
- Zones of the site for each year group at social time and lunchtime
- Double lessons across periods 2 – 3 and then 4 – 5 on alternate weeks to remove 2 major transitions each day.
- Clearly marked 2 metre space around each teacher's desk
- Reduced practical activities in Science / DT / PE and use of PE changing spaces.
- Appointment of 2 full time cover supervisors to reduce the number of 'new' adults onto the site.
- Amendments to the school calendar to reduce the number of social gatherings.
- Regular reviews (monthly) of our action plan with a cross section of staff, governors and members of the student council.
- Managing the use of classroom equipment to ensure it is sanitised between use by different groups.

The detail for specific year groups in terms of staggered entry / exit and zones is contained in the table which is attached.

Living with COVID19 and still operating our school at full capacity will require flexibility, vigilance and resilience from all of us. It is important that our students feel safe and welcome with all of these

measures in place. We may be operating this new regime for quite some time to come. There will be staff throughout the site to support and guide students throughout the day. Progress leaders have assembled videos for students to outline the plans for return and these will be available through Edulink early next week.

Additionally, you will find attached a set of our risk controls with some suggestions as to how you could support us with implementing these new operational procedures.

Each year group will spend the first lesson of the first day they return with their form tutor. This will afford opportunities for students to reconnect with their form peers, learn about new procedures at the school to protect our community and ask any questions.

I would ask all parents to ensure that their child is fully equipped each day for school and fully aware of the specific entry / exit gate for their year group and scheduled time to arrive and leave.

We will be providing hot and cold food at 2 venues through lunch and break but students may wish to avoid the queue and therefore minimise potential contact by bringing their own snacks and lunch. The window of time available for the purchase of items will be shorter as a measure to reduce social mixing.

I understand students may feel anxious about their return and these new operations which will be part of a safe return to all schools. I would remind parents and students that all the same staff are here as last year. In addition, we have appointed one new English teacher Miss Kelly and 2 new Teaching assistants Ms Hawkrige and Miss Midgley.

As always, our superb pastoral team are here to provide support and meet with students individually as appropriate. They have supported many of our students through lockdown and in some cases, through the summer break.

We are aware that students will have knowledge and understanding gaps as a consequence of lockdown. Our staff have adapted the curriculum and learning materials to ensure a combination of diagnostic and revision work is included with new learning.

The first step is to get all of our students back into school so we can all work together to continue our learning whilst living with this virus.

We look forward to seeing all of our students back by next Friday and seeing you at some point later this academic year.

Yours sincerely,

J McBrearty

Principal