



Hyde

Community College

15th July 2020

Dear Pupils, Parents and Carers,

SCHOOL REOPENING IN SEPTEMBER

It is with great pleasure that I can now give some further information about our school reopening its doors to pupils at the start of the Academic Year 2020-21. Please note that any pupil or staff member who has symptoms of Covid-19, or lives with someone who does, **MUST NOT** come into school, but must stay at home and access testing for the virus as soon as possible.

Staff will be preparing for reopening throughout the summer and will be training on Tuesday 1st September and so pupils will begin a phased return from Wednesday 2nd September as outlined later in this letter. We would like to assure you that our school will operate in line with all relevant national guidance. We have worked hard to prioritise health and safety considerations whilst ensuring the best possible educational experience in such circumstances. I am delighted to say that a full timetable will be in place for each pupil.

The purpose of this letter.

For now, in this letter, I do not intend to take you through every detail as this would run to tens of pages; apologies that it is already very long! During the week beginning 17th August, I will provide you with further details on just what will be different and what will remain the same. You are, of course, very welcome to contact me via admin@hydecc.tameside.sch.uk with any questions in the meantime.

Today's letter sets out the 'headline' actions and precautions to minimise risk whilst providing the best learning possible; there is a great deal of detail behind these headlines. It also shows how pupils, parents and carers should help. We are one community and can only make the full return to school work well if we all show kindness and respect to each other and share the responsibility for successful education and care.

Main details in summary:

Contact: In line with guidance, we are creating a range of 'bubbles' to minimise mixing for extended periods of time whilst enabling us to deliver a full curriculum.

(New) Year 7 will be taught in their **Form Groups** (not in sets) for the first term, in every subject. Their Form Tutor will see them at the start of each day and, although they will see other year 7 pupils briefly at break and lunchtime, they will remain in their class bubble throughout learning time.

Year 8 will be taught in a **streamed bubble** i.e. a group of 20 – 30 pupils based on prior academic attainment and learning needs. Again, they will see other Year 8 pupils briefly at break and lunchtime but will remain in the same class bubble throughout learning time.

Year 9 will be taught in **year half bubbles** which means that they will be in sets for core subjects and will change classes for different lessons, but will only mix with half of their year group other than at break and lunchtime.

(New) Year 10 and 11. In line with the national guidance on risk and curriculum entitlement, the new Year 10 will be in a **year group bubble** and Year 11 will be the same. Being able to 'mix' within their own year group ensures that KS4 pupils can be in their correct academic set and option groups. They will mix only with their own year group at break and lunchtime.

Social Distance & Movement:

The groups described above have been established to ensure that all pupils are able to receive their full curriculum entitlement, with specialist teachers and in specialist rooms where appropriate, but this does mean that all pupils will

need to move around school and **this is the most important part of our new routines**. All the guidance clearly states that 'passing briefly in the corridor or playground is low risk' and brief passing on the corridors (even with new one-way systems) will occur in all school settings. Every pupil will have to comply FULLY with our one-way systems, allocated stairways, specific entrances and exits, and **SILENT movement around school**. This will enable everyone to work in a calm and controlled environment and is key to the success of our SAFE reopening.

The national guidance makes clear that social distancing of 2m within the 'bubbles' will not be possible in any secondary school setting when all pupils return, but classrooms will be arranged in rows to secure as much distance as possible within each space. Pupils will be expected not to touch each other and to maintain distance as far as is practicable. As **teachers and support staff** will be moving between 'bubbles', there is an expectation that a 2m distance between staff and pupils will be maintained, except during the reduced passing in the corridors.

The Start of the Day:

On Wednesday 2nd September, school will open to the new Year 7 only to allow them to settle and familiarise themselves with the building, their classes and school routines. We will send out a separate letter to parents with full details of what to do on the first day and when. From Thursday 3rd September, other year groups will begin to return. Each pupil will be assigned a return day and time – this is to allow us to fully brief all pupils as they return and to minimise contact between groups of pupils.

From Monday 7th September, all pupils will arrive at their allocated time at the start of the day. Please note that pupils will not all start at exactly the same time and they will be required to go to different entrances, depending on their year group. This will all be clearly sign-posted. Pupils will begin each day in Lesson 1 and not in a separate registration period.

It is vital that pupils arrive **at their allocated time** – they will not be allowed onto the school site or into the building until 5 minutes before their allocated time, so if a pupil is due to start at 8:45am, they should arrive AT 8:40am. Please support us in this.

Breakfast Provision:

As we reopen, there will be no breakfast provision. We will review this as soon as new routines are fully established.

Transport:

It is recommended that pupils avoid or minimise the use of public transport. If they do use it, they should maintain a 1m+ social distance. It is the law to wear a face-covering on public transport (but not in school). If possible, pupils should walk or cycle (wearing their helmets).

IMPORTANT - there will be **no access to the school car park for parents** (other than for pupils with special access needs) and so **those travelling by car cannot be dropped off (or collected) on the school grounds** but should arrange this a short distance from school. Please do not drop off or pick up pupils directly outside the school gates and be considerate of local residents at all times. Pupils from different households should not car-share.

Form Time and Break:

Year 7 will go to the room allocated to Lesson 1 on their timetable at the start of each day and will meet their Form Tutor there for a 10 minute Tutor Period; at this point their Lesson 1 teacher will take over. To reduce movement, there will be no Form Time for Years 8 – 11; they will be registered at the beginning of lesson 1 and so punctuality is more important than ever. Any assemblies will be presented digitally to the classroom for each year group; there will be no large gatherings or assemblies.

To maintain the 'bubble groups' there will also be changes to our break-time. It will still last 15 minutes but each year group will have it at a different time during Lesson 2.

Lunchtime:

To support the 'bubble groups' there will also be changes to our lunchtime. Each year group will go for lunch at a different time during Lesson 4. Pupils will have 10-15 minutes to purchase food from the canteen and will then move outside (we do have a wet weather plan). Lunchtime will be 25 minutes long in total and queues will be minimised with just one year group at a time. We will not be serving full hot meals but there will be a wide range of lunches available including sandwiches, paninis, pasta pots, chicken burgers and so on. We will give fuller details in our update, in the week-beginning 17th August.

The End of the Day:

The changes to breaks and lunch times also mean changes to the end of the school day. Pupils will leave by arranged exit routes at staggered times between 2:35pm and 2:45pm at the end of the day.

Attendance:

The national guidance makes clear that the current improvements to the Covid-19 situation and the significant risk to life-chances and educational opportunity of missing school, mean that **attendance at school is compulsory to all pupils** (except for those who have symptoms of Covid-19 or share a household with someone who does). We will provide more details (including on self-isolation and shielding) in August. The good news for our pupils is that we expect all or almost all staff to be with us as we open for the new academic year.

Uniform:

Pupils must be in full, clean uniform (please see details on our website), including correct footwear. There can be no exceptions. On a day when a pupil has PE, and because we will not initially be making use of the PE changing rooms, PE uniform should be worn all day. This should include joggers and a PE hoodie if your child has one or any other plain black sweatshirt if they don't. The clothing may have a small logo or brand but no large lettering or branding will be permitted. This is a temporary measure.

Equipment:

Pupils must bring a bag to school and their essential equipment (pen, pencil, ruler plus any stationery issued by school). It should be clean. They are also encouraged to bring their own small and safe alcohol-free hand sanitiser and **must** bring tissues each day to each lesson. Unfortunately we cannot lend equipment to pupils. Pupils are encouraged to bring a full water bottle as drinking fountains cannot be used. In the information we send to you in August we will explain the restrictions to the equipment for music and PE lessons and the meticulous cleaning of school equipment that will be taking place.

Behaviour and Safety:

Our expectations of pupils' behaviour will be even higher than before. Most of the routines, expectations, rules and protocols will be the same but each pupil will have a duty to protect herself or himself and to do everything they can to look after every other pupil and adult in the building.

The virus has not gone away so all our safe and sensible measures must be observed. Too much school-time has already been lost and so we will insist that time is not wasted on return to class. We aim to do this in a positive, warm and strict but friendly manner, but can only do so with the support of pupils and parents.

Health & Safety Plans

In reopening the school, we will comply with health and safety law which requires us to assess risks and put in place proportionate control measures. We have reviewed our risk assessment and drawn up plans for the Autumn Term that address the risks identified in line with the national guidance from the Department for Education: <https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/actions-for-schools-during-the-coronavirus-outbreak/guidance-for-full-opening-schools>

This guidance has led to significant changes in how school will run in the Autumn Term. The changes cover the following key matters:

- Public Health guidance to minimise Covid-19 risks;
- How the school will operate during each day;
- What teaching, the curriculum, pastoral care and behaviour will be like;
- Year 11 GCSE Examinations in 2021;
- Contingency planning in case of a school, local or national outbreak of Covid-19

Our risk assessment is approved by our Governing Body, the Covid-19 Panel and checked by the Health & Safety experts at Tameside Local Authority. It takes reasonable steps, in compliance with national guidance, to protect pupils, staff and others from Covid-19 within our educational setting. It will be monitored and reviewed each fortnight.

Hygiene:

There will be controls to ensure pupils clean their hands thoroughly more often than usual.

We will be promoting good respiratory hygiene. There will be a limited supply of tissues in school but each pupil should carry tissues each day, provided from home. Please arrange this over the holidays.

Cleaning:

There will be enhanced cleaning of rooms, surfaces, toilets, shared facilities and equipment during the day and at the end of the day. There will be hand sanitisers beside classrooms. In addition, pupils will also be expected to use the desk wipes provided in class to wipe their own desk/work station at the start of each lesson.

Thank you all so much!

Our plans are almost ready and in place; full details will be sent out to you during the week beginning 17th August. I am so grateful for the huge amount of extra work our senior leaders, teachers, support staff and governors have done to make all this possible. I am equally grateful for the enormous amount of positive support and feedback we have had from our pupils and our parents this term in what has been the most difficult of times.

Later in August, we will provide you with more details on the specific 'safe and sensible' changes that will be in place for the Autumn Term and detailed arrangements for each year group's start dates and times.

We are determined to '**build back even better**' than before and we will need the active support of all our pupils, parents, staff and governors to make that happen.

I will be in touch tomorrow with our final (and MUCH shorter!) newsletter for the term.

With best wishes,



Andrea Radcliffe

Headteacher

Please note: The information in this letter is subject to change at short notice in the light of national guidance.