

September opening update

Dear Parents and Carers,

I hope you have all had a restful and peaceful holiday period as lockdown has continued to ease. Returning all students to school as quickly and as safely as possible has been a clear ambition over the last few months and work has continued on this front during August.

I wrote to you at the end of July outlining our plans for the full return of all students over the first few days of the new academic year. There are no real changes to report but here are some quick reminders.

The start of term will look as follows:

Tuesday 1st September INSET Day (staff only)

Wednesday 2nd September Year 7 and 12 only

Thursday 3rd September Year 7, 11, 12 and 13 only

Friday 4th September Year 8, 9 and 10 only

Monday 7th September whole school returns

This will allow each year group a detailed transition or reintroduction to school, some wellbeing support and a chance to catch up with their friends and staff. Many schools are using similar approaches, but other schools may do it differently depending on their setting and accommodation. We believe this will give us the safest and most effective start to the new academic year.

On the opening days of term, students will spend some time with their tutor group acquainting themselves with some of the changes we have made to the school day and movement around the school. I would be grateful if you could reiterate to your child(ren) that their cooperation and engagement is of paramount importance to the safe and smooth running of the school.

The details are in my previous letter and on the school website

<https://www.cottesloe.bucks.sch.uk/parent/september-2020-important-information>; the key points are as follows:

Social distancing and year group bubbles

Social distancing will be maintained, wherever possible to 2 metres, especially for staff who have to teach across multiple year group bubbles.

Students will be taught in year group bubbles in one central block to reduce movement around the school.



Movement around the school

Students will only leave this block for break/lunch and to access specialist lessons such as PE, DT, Performing Arts.

A one-way system has been created to reduce congestion and indoor movement. Students must follow this at all times. We have created some 'movement time' in the school day to allow for longer routes to certain areas of the school. Please move quickly and sensibly without delay.

Timings of school day

There will be no social time at the start of the school day. Students will go straight to their period 1 classroom on arrival.

Tutor time has been moved to the end of the day to allow a staged exit from school in year group bubbles.

Break and lunch times have been staggered to reduce the number of students not in class. There is a specific dining location for each year group to prevent bubbles from mixing.

Hygiene

Students should observe good hygiene with regards to hand washing and use of sanitiser on a frequent basis, e.g. before coming on site, when changing classrooms, before and after break/lunch.

We have increased supplies and access to handwashing and sanitiser but I would ask that each student carries their own sanitiser to reduce queueing and waiting times.

Significant investment has been made in signage to promote these safety measures.

Transport

Government guidance on school transport makes a clear distinction between dedicated school-only buses and public transport on requirements for social distancing. As the risk of infection is lower on dedicated school-only transport than on public transport, there are no mandatory government requirements for social distancing on school-only buses. However, parents may wish to discuss with their children the benefits of maintaining social distancing where this is possible.

We will be working with the bus companies and our students to encourage year group bubbles to sit together on dedicated school-only routes.

Some changes have been made to public transport such as reduce passenger loads and timetable changes. Please check the Bucks County website or the transport company to ensure that your child does not experience delays in getting to school on time.

To find out more go to <https://www.buckscc.gov.uk/services/transport-and-roads/buses-and-trains/bus-timetables/school-day-bus-timetables/>



Face coverings

On dedicated school buses, although face coverings are not compulsory, we are strongly advising their use. We advise that masks should be worn on all transport to and from school. These should be removed and stored for safe keeping for return journeys.

Masks will need to be removed on arrival at school.

We will continue to monitor the latest DfE guidance and will adjust our plans accordingly and communicate this to you.

We are look forward to welcoming all students back over the coming weeks to establish the new 'normal' and get back to the business of face to face teaching. We appreciate that this is a lot of change for our students, but it is necessary in order to allow everyone to return safely. Your continued support is much appreciated.

Yours sincerely

S Jones

Headteacher

