



Ashton Community Science College

'a school to be proud of'

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July 2020

Dear Parents/Carers of Students moving from Year 7 into Year 8 in September

Some important information about returning in September

Firstly, I would like to tell you how pleased we are to be planning for your return in September. It has been a strange few months for all of us and we are all looking forward to returning to the routine that school offers in September.

As you are aware, the DFE published new guidance on 2nd July to assist schools in preparing for a safe return in light of the continued global pandemic. The full guidance can be found here:

<https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/actions-for-schools-during-the-coronavirus-outbreak/guidance-for-full-opening-schools>

You will see that schools are encouraged to return to their normal school uniform policy at the start of the Autumn term. The guidance states “uniforms do not need to be cleaned any more often than usual, nor do they need to be cleaned using methods which are different from normal.” As social distancing measures in school have also been reduced, there is now adequate provision for students to change for PE.

We will therefore now be expecting all students to arrive in the **normal school uniform**.

Our suppliers have forwarded on to us leaflets which detail various offers and payment options. These are available to view and print out under the Parents - Uniform section on the school website. You may need to take the leaflet with you to take advantage of any promotional offers.

We are in the process of finalising our plans for a full return in September in accordance with the latest DFE guidance and these will be placed on the school website in due course to reassure parents/carers and students that our school is a safe place.

There are some changes that we have had to make to the previously published calendar and information to ensure we comply with the requirements of the guidance. One change is to stagger daily start and finish times, break and lunch times for all year groups, so that they can be kept in year group “bubbles.” We have also staggered the first day of return for different year groups, to give us the opportunity to explain carefully and thoroughly the



new ways of working and expectations that have become necessary as a result of Covid-19.

Year 7 (our new intake) will return on **Wednesday 2nd September at 8.30 am**. They will assemble in the quiet yard at the rear of the school. They will be met by Mrs Barrow, Mrs Barker and the year 7 tutors, who will accompany them into the building via door 4 and support with the routines and questions that inevitably arise on the first day.

Year 11 will return on **Wednesday 2nd September at 10.00am**. They should **enter via Door 2 only. They should go straight to the main hall**

Year 8 will return on **Thursday 3rd September at 8.30am**. They should **enter via door 2 only. They should go straight to the main hall**

Year 10 will return on **Thursday 3rd September at 10.00am**. They should **enter via door 4 only. They should go straight to the main hall**

Year 9 will return on **Thursday 3rd September at 11.00am**. They should **enter via door 5 only. They should go straight to the main hall**

All year groups should attend school on Friday 4th September at the start and finish time detailed below, via the identified entrance only.

In order to implement the DFE guidance and keep students in separate bubbles in school, it has been necessary to implement staggered start and finish times for all year groups, as well as different points of entry to the building. These are shown below **and are not flexible**.

- Year 7 – 8.20 am arrival for an 8.30 am entry into the building **via door 4 only**. Departure at 2.40 pm
- Year 8 - 8.30 am arrival for an 8.40 am entry into the building **via door 2 only**. Departure at 2.45 pm
- Year 9 - 8.35 am arrival for an 8.45 am entry into the building **via door 5 only**. Departure at 3.00 pm
- Year 10 - 8.50 am arrival for a 9.00 am entry into the building **via door 4 only**. Departure at 3.05pm
- Year 11 - 8.50 am arrival for a 9.00 am entry into the building **via door 2 only**. Departure time at the earliest for year 11 will be 3.10 pm but we are intending to offer additional sessions to allow year 11 to bridge some of the gaps caused by the prolonged lockdown. These sessions will run from 3.10 pm – 4.00 pm

You will see from the above list that staggering start and finish times has been a logistical challenge and we need your support in making this work for the safety of all children and staff. We must minimise any cross over of year groups in accordance with the DFE guidance. **It is therefore imperative that children arrive on time and present to the door allocated to them.** Arriving late compromises our ability to retain the integrity of the year group bubbles and must be avoided. There is no facility to offer alternative entrance points to the building for latecomers so now more than ever punctuality is crucial.

Likewise, once students are in school, they will not have freedom of access around the building, to protect the integrity of each year group bubble. Instead, movement will be

strictly controlled. The start times of the first day for each year group have been further amended to allow time us to explain the new systems and structures to each year group before they commence their new routines.

There will be no after school provision in the first instance, although we will keep this under review. Students should not arrive before their designated entry time. Unfortunately, we do not have any facility to accommodate students until their designated start time, so ask that they plan their journey with this in mind. Furthermore, we would be grateful if parents could drop children off in the car park if coming in a vehicle or at the gate if walking. Staff will be available at the gates to respond to any queries you may have, but we need to ask that parents do not enter the site unless absolutely necessary to minimise footfall and therefore the possibility of the spread of infection.

Break and lunchtimes will also be reduced slightly in length and staggered to minimise contact between bubbles. In order to move all year groups through the dining room we will be serving "grab food" only. There will be a choice of hot and cold savoury food, drinks, and cold sweets such as biscuits and cakes. Children are welcome to bring packed lunches, which they may prefer in the early days of settling in.

Unfortunately, we are unable to lend equipment due to current guidance and so respectfully remind you that students must return with a full pack of equipment, which many purchased last year. Replacement equipment packs are still available and can be ordered via parentpay, ready for collection at the start of term. **I would like to add a reading book to this list of essential equipment.** We have purchased a number of new library books to supplement our current catalogue but there are restrictions on how long books must remain untouched once they have been used. We operate a daily reading session and so for the first week at least, ask that your child brings a book of their own from home into school so they can take part in these daily sessions.

A final reminder that we will put updates on the school website on a specially designated area, which can be found using this link:

<https://www.ashtoncsc.lancs.sch.uk/september-2020>

In addition to these adaptions there will be a change of form groups in September. As each student moves through the year groups their form tutor changes but we have also decided to mix the groupings up for your child; moving from a house form group to a mixed house form group. A great deal of thought has gone into this decision as it will support in building the house system and competition that takes place between houses and we will be working hard to ensure it is a success.

I do appreciate that moving away from your tutor and your form group could be worrying. In fact, all of the changes that we are undertaking, not just in school but as a society, might make you feel a little anxious. Please be reassured that your current tutor, new form tutor, progress leaders, in fact all staff, are here to support you. The details of your new form arrangement are:

The following information is contained in the personalised letter that was posted home. This letter is on the website for reference purposes only.

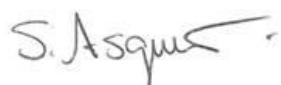
Student Name:

Year 8 Form:

Year 8 Form Tutor:

I hope you have an enjoyable summer and look forward to welcoming all members of the school family back in September.

Yours sincerely



Miss S Asquith
Headteacher