

Pre-return update

Dear Parent/Carer

I have been holding back from communicating with you until now as the information about the return to school in September has been very fluid! This document does not replace the full booklet you received in July, but it summarises some of the key points and also provides some *additional information* about face masks.

The original documents are here: <http://www.balshaws.org.uk/parents-portal/recent-letters-and-communications>

Thankfully the planning that we did prior to the summer is robust enough to remain in place, so below is a reminder of the start and finish times for each year group and the times of the periods throughout the day:

		The School Day from September																																														
		Entrance	08:40	08:45	08:50	08:55	09:00	09:05	09:10	09:20	09:30	09:40	09:50	10:00	10:10	10:20	10:30	10:40	10:50	11:00	11:10	11:20	11:30	11:40	11:50	12:00	12:10	12:20	12:30	12:40	12:50	13:00	13:10	13:20	13:30	13:40	13:50	14:00	14:10	14:20	14:30	14:40	14:50	15:00	15:10	15:20	15:30	15:40
Year 7	A	Reg/Tutor/Virtual Assembly	Period 1					Period 2					B7	Period 3					Period 4					L7	Period 5																							
Year 8	B	Reg/Tutor/Virtual Assembly	Period 1					B8	Period 2					Period 3					Period 4					L8	Period 5																							
Year 9	B	Reg/Tutor	Period 1					B9	Period 2					Period 3					Period 4					L9	Period 5																							
Year 10	A	Reg/Tutor	Period 1					B10	Period 2					Period 3					Period 4					L10	Period 5																							
Year 11	A	Reg/Tutor	Period 1					B11	Period 2					Period 3					Period 4					L11	Period 5					Period 6																		
Use of boys' toilets:																																																
Year 8 Toilets	Clean																																															
Year 9 Toilets	Clean																																															
Year 10 Toilets	Clean																																															
Year 11 Toilets	Clean																																															
Break:	B7 Junior restaurant and Astro turf play area 1		Boys' Toilets:		Year 7 Geography		Girls' Toilets:		Year 7 Geography		Toilet for ill/suspected COVID:														Single occupant toilet opposite Head's office.																							
	B8 Junior Restaurant and West Wing play area		Year 8		Opposite Restaurant		Year 8		Outside lettings toilets																																							
	B9 Food Hut and rear of new gym and science		Year 9		Opposite Restaurant		Year 9		Opposite room 3																																							
	B10 Senior Restaurant and Astro turf play area 2		Year 10		Outside garage		Year 10		Opposite room 26																																							
	B11 Senior restaurant and Basketball Court play area		Year 11		Outside garage		Year 11		Next to exams office																																							
Lunch:	L7 Junior restaurant and Astro turf play area 1																																															
	L8 Junior Restaurant and West Wing play area																																															
	L9 Food Hut and rear of new gym and science																																															
	L10 Food Hut and Astro turf play area 2																																															
	L11 Senior restaurant and Basketball Court play area																																															

Face Masks:

As each year group is being taught in a year group bubble, there is no requirement to wear a mask in the classroom. However, I would strongly recommend that your child wears a face mask in the following situations:

- When queuing during the lunch period.
- When using the toilets.
- Any movement during lunch/break when your child may come near to another year group bubble.

Wearing a face mask is only effective if your child uses it correctly. You should show your child how to remove and store their face mask correctly so that they do not increase the chance of them picking up the viral matter they are designed to prevent getting on the hands and face.

Staff in school will wear face masks at any point that they may not be able to maintain a 2 metre social distance and as adults, they are strongly encouraged by scientific advice and teacher unions to do so.

If there is a local lockdown, face masks will become compulsory for all.

Additional hygiene measures:

- As stated in the full booklet you received in July, every classroom will have hand gel and tissues, however, you should also provide your child with hand gel so that they can cleanse their hands as frequently as they feel they need to.
- The school has installed handwashing troughs along the walls of the compound to encourage frequent hand washing. Soap and paper towel dispensers are also above these hand wash troughs.
- There are floor markings throughout the school indicating which year group is allowed in the area and the direction of movement for students.

Use of toilets:

- Usually students should use the toilets outside of lesson time during breaks and lesson changeovers. This is no longer the case to enable us to spread the use of the toilets more widely.
- For boys in Years 8-11 there are times when only their year group can use the toilets (see the blue shading in the table above). This is to avoid the mixing of year group bubbles and to allow for time between bubbles for the toilets to be cleaned.
- Arrangements for students who have medical conditions which require them to use the toilet more frequently will be made directly with them.

Equipment list:

- Please ensure that your child has a full set of equipment as outlined in the booklet sent to you in July. Having the correct equipment is essential as equipment cannot be shared.

Uniform:

- As always, the usual high standards for uniform are in place. There is only one exception to this:
 - On days when your child has PE they are to come to school in their Balshaw's PE kit for the whole day.
 - A blazer should also be worn over the PE kit
 - **BOYS:** For additional warmth you may wear black tracksuit bottoms which can be removed easily.
 - **GIRLS:** You must wear black tracksuit bottoms under your skort. The skort should **NOT** be worn on its own. Girls should not wear black leggings.
 - **TRACKSUIT BOTTOMS:** If they are not the Balshaw's tracksuit bottoms, please note that these should be plain black tracksuit bottoms, they **should not** have branding down them and.

Behaviour

- We expect the highest standards of behaviour from all of our students to enable us to ensure that all our students are kept safe. This means **following instructions from staff first time, every time, without questioning staff**.
- Certain behaviours will result in an immediate period of Fixed Term Exclusion. These include, but are not restricted to:
 - Spitting.
 - Coughing or sneezing at people.
 - Deliberately straying outside your year group bubble.
- We will still be operating after school detentions. These will be held in the school gym with small numbers of students who will be in separate areas of the gym.

We hope that we will not have to use these measures. It is hoped that our students will see the benefits of being back in school after such a long period of absence and will understand that **our role is to ensure that everyone is kept safe whilst being educated.**

What if there are cases of Covid-19?

- You should not send your child to school if they have any of the symptoms of Covid. These include, but are not restricted to:
 - Persistent cough.
 - Anosmia (loss of or change to sense of taste/smell).
 - High temperature.
- The school is working with Lancashire County Council and National Institute for Health Protection to communicate any known cases and to co-ordinate appropriate responses and any local quarantining measures.
- The school has a small number of test kits which can be sent home with any student who is exhibiting Covid symptoms.
- There is a helpful summary table at the end of this document which outlines the actions you should take in a variety of scenarios.

14 Day Quarantine:

- Please note that if you have been on holiday in any of the areas where you are required to quarantine for 14 days on return (the full list is available online, but includes countries such as France, Spain and Portugal).
- Your child is not to attend school until the 14 days of quarantine have been completed.
- A copy of a boarding pass or other evidence to demonstrate the date you returned from a holiday may be requested.

Period 6 for Year 11 students:

It is important to note that Year 11 will have a period 6 every day and finish at 3.40pm. This provides them with one extra lesson per fortnight in each of their subjects. This is not optional, but is a part of their timetable and allows us to ensure that all students are able to catch up with work missed or not fully understood during the period of Home Learning. We will review this at October half term.

Transport Arrangements:

- On your child's first day in school their tutor will have to ask if they have used public transport and if so what public transport. We are asked to do this in case the information is required by the Track and Trace team.
- If your child's mode of transport changes subsequent to this, they are to let their tutor know.
- More information from LCC about the use of public transport will be posted on our website tomorrow at: <http://www.balshaws.org.uk/parents-portal/coronavirus-updates-for-parents>

Dining arrangements:

Our catering team will spend their entire working day in full PPE (this includes visors, face masks and gloves) so you can be reassured that the standards of safety for dining are far higher than that which you would get in any restaurant or takeaway.

Some other practical matters:

Mrs Wilson has emailed all of you with your tutor rooms so that you know which classroom you are going to when you get to school.

- Year 7 start on Wednesday 2nd September
- Years 8 – 11 start on Friday 4th September

No parents on the school site:

Please note that no parents are allowed to enter the school premises and there should be no waiting outside the school gates. If any parent wishes to visit the school they must phone to make an appointment on 01772 421 009 or email enquiries@balshaws.org.uk

We are sorry but any parent arriving at school without an appointment will have to be sent away until an appointment has been booked.

In summary:

Please re-read the booklet that was sent out before the summer and note the key points that are in this pre-return update. It is going to be great to see all of our students again, but we will all have to adjust to slightly different ways of doing things to ensure that all members of the Balshaw’s community remain safe.

Kind regards,



Mr Steven Haycocks
HEADTEACHER

Your Word is a lamp for my feet and a light on my path. (Psalm 119, vs 105)

Lighting the path to excellence through Christian vision and values.

What to do if ...	Action required	Return to school when ...
... my child has coronavirus symptoms	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Do not come into school • Contact school daily • Self-isolate • Get a test • Inform school immediately about test result 	...the test comes back negative
...my child tests positive for coronavirus	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Do not come into school • Contact school daily • Self-isolate for at least 10 days • Inform school immediately about test result 	...they feel better. They can return to school after 10 days even if they have a cough or loss of smell/taste but not if they still have a temperature. A cough or loss of smell/taste can last several weeks once the infection is gone
...somebody in my household has coronavirus symptoms	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Do not come into school • Contact school daily • Self-isolate • Household member to get a test • Inform school immediately about test result 	...the household member’s test is negative
...somebody in my house has tested positive for coronavirus	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Do not come into school • Contact school daily • Self-isolate for 14 days 	...the child has completed 14 days of self-isolation
... NHS test and trace have identified my child as a ‘close contact’ of somebody with symptoms or confirmed coronavirus	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Do not come into school • Contact school daily • Self-isolate for 14 days 	... the child has completed 14 days of self-isolation
... we/my child has travelled and has to self-isolate as part of a period of quarantine	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Consider quarantine requirements and FCO advice when booking travel • Provide information to school as per attendance policy <p>Returning from a destination where quarantine is needed:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Do not come into school • Contact school daily • Self-isolate for 14 days 	... the quarantine period of 14 days is completed
... we have received medical advice that my child should continue shielding	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Do not come into school • Make contact with school • Shield until you are informed that restrictions are lifted and shielding is paused again 	...in consultation with the school, it is agreed that restrictions are lifted and your child can return