



GCA Parent/Carer Briefing

Monday 13/7/20

Good morning,

After just over a week of planning, we are much closer to having our plans for September in place.

I do need to reiterate, that the 2020-21 academic year is going to be one of compromises and of working together and that school will not look or feel like it normally does, however, I believe we are putting in place measures that will make GCA a really safe place for all the children and adults and still an amazing place to go to school. We really do want all children to be back with us.

The school day – I have added my working summary of bubbles, spaces, lunchtimes etc to the bottom of this briefing. This is still not set in stone, but will give you a flavour of what is being planned (this is a working document, and I'm sure there are errors in it of many types – please be forgiving – I'm sharing it to help you to get your heads around the whole picture of our planning).

- There will be a big emphasis on a) children and adults not being on site if they have any Covid-19 symptoms, and b) making sure that hand washing/sanitising is done regularly throughout the day.
- School is going to be separated into zones – year group bubbles.
- Each year group bubble will have its own toilet (possibly gender neutral space with fixed gender cubicles) and dedicated outside areas for before school, breaks and lunchtimes.
- As far as is possible, from the point of arrival in school, children will remain in their year group bubble at all times and not mix with other year group bubbles.
- Although start times are very difficult for us to stagger because 45% of GCA children come in on buses from a 200 sq mile catchment, we are going to change our start time to 8.50 am for this period to allow for more of a steady stream of children coming on to site from 8.15 am at the earliest (not before, due to lack of supervision), and going directly to their bubble areas.
- Breakfast will still be available from the main canteen from 8.20 – the queue will be socially distanced, and children will then go directly to their own zones.
- Breaks and lunchtimes will be staggered – 3 year groups will have break at 10.00 am and lunch at 12.20 am, and 2 year groups will have break at 11.00 am and lunch at 1.20 pm. Additionally, one year group at break and a different year group at lunch will finish 10 minutes early to quickly get food from a specified canteen and return to their own zone with it.
- The end of the school day will be staggered across a 15 minute period to allow year bubbles to exit the site separately.
- After school clubs will be year group specific but, I hope, will still be taking place.
- Lockers will not be in use.
- Normal school uniform expectations will be in place.
- Normal behaviour systems will be in place.

Lessons

Our academy trust has made the decision to further protect everyone on site, and the educational stability of the school (i.e. reducing chances of closure due to cross bubble Covid-19 cases) by imposing a restriction on the number of bubbles staff can teach across, and reducing their movement around



school. Practically, this results in some compromises but, I believe, enhanced confidence in a safe September return, with no reduction in quality of education.

- In year 7, children will be taught in form groups for all subjects.
- In years 8 and 9, children will be taught in the same sets for all subjects – these will be set across the whole year group rather than their existing bands, and will be arrived at using existing assessment data and knowledge of the children.
- In years 10 and 11, children will be taught in their science sets for English, maths and science, and in their normal sets for their option subjects.
- In class TA support will be very difficult to achieve, and Mrs Davis has put together a workable support model.
- Due to difficulties with changing facilities, children will be able to come to school **once**/week in their GCA PE kit – including their GCA sweatshirt (or similar e.g. plain navy ¼ zip sweatshirt with **no hood**) and plain navy/black bottoms/leggings – not brightly coloured sportswear and without excessive branding. If they have PE/Games on two separate days, one will either be PE theory, or an activity which can be done in school uniform.
- Sharing of equipment will be difficult and therefore very limited – Mrs Smith will be sending a letter home this week with a list of equipment every child must have in September.

Transport to and from school:

Clearly, we are doing everything we can to separate year groups in school as per the Government's guidance. However, as far as arriving and departing are concerned, we are in other people's hands – including yours as parents, and the bus companies/Lancashire County Council.

If children can make their own way to school on foot, by bike, or by car, please encourage them to do so and, to stay as separate from other year groups as they possibly can do.

We have sent home a transport questionnaire – if you are intending for your child to catch any bus to or from school, please return this if you haven't already done so.

In summary

I realise that many of the measures I have outlined could cause your child some anticipatory anxiety – what I would say is that I and the GCA staff are committed to making this work, and that GCA will still be a great place to come to – even if it will be a bit different for a while.

I will communicate any further information as I have it, including plans for the first week in September which will be intended to help children to further understand, and feel comfortable with, the arrangements we have put in place.

Please contact the school using the info@garstangcommunityacademy.com email address if you have any specific concerns or questions regarding September, and we'll do our best to answer them.

Best wishes

Mr Ashcroft



Draft Summary of Year Bubbles, Timings and Zones

Year	Year Bubble Rooms	Before school	Break 1 10.00 – 10.20	Break 2 11.00-11.20	Lunch 1 12.20 - 12.55	Lunch 2 13.20 – 13.55	Dep. time
11	S 1-4, S7 & T3	Rear Parlick Green zone a	Lessons	Rear Parlick Green zone a and Courts Green zone b Food: Main dining room (via path around the back of Maths block and through the link corridor)	Lessons	Rear Parlick Green zone a and Courts Green zone b Food: Main dining room (via path around the back of Maths block and through the link corridor)	3:05
10	C5, 6, 7, 8, 9 & SC	Between Calder and Parlick (east) up to end of C7 ?? zone	Rear Parlick Green zone a and Courts Green zone b (via concourse between C and P blocks) Food: Main dining room (via staffroom/ old reception corridor)	Lessons	Rear Parlick Green zone a and Courts Green zone b (via concourse between C and P blocks) Food: Main dining room (via staffroom/ old reception corridor)	Lessons	3:00
9	C1, 2, 3, 4, 10, 11	Between Calder and Parlick (west) up to sports	Lessons	Front of school Orange zone b (and c for ball games)	Lessons	Front of school Orange zone b (and c for ball games)	2:55



		hall drive ? zone		Not between Fairsnape and kitchen Food: Fairsnape dining room (via front of school)		Not between Fairsnape and kitchen Food: Fairsnape dining room (via front of school)	
8	B 1- 6	Area between Bowland and Hall Orange Zone a	Front of school Orange zone b (and c for ball games) Not between Fairsnape and kitchen Food: Fairsnape dining room	Lessons	Front of school Orange zone b (and c for ball games) Not between Fairsnape and kitchen Food: At 12.10 – collect food from Fairsnape dining room and take outside or, in wet weather, inside gym (via vending entrance and old reception/staffroom corridor).	Lessons	3:05
7	M1 – 6	Rear of Maths and rear of Gym Blue zone	Rear of Maths & rear of Gym Blue zone Breaktime from 9.50 – collect food from main	Lessons	Rear of Maths & rear of Gym Blue zone and Fairsnape dining room (via Bowland link corridor)	Lessons	2:55



			dining room (via outside dining room door to concourse between Hall and B block) and take directly outside - back to rear of Maths etc via same door and route in reverse) or in wet weather inside gym through rear doors				
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