



GUISELEY SCHOOL

July 2020

Dear Parent/Carer

I am writing to update you on some of the changes we are implementing in September following the recent announcements from the government of the steps to keep all students safe in their return to school.

Start of Term Arrangements September 2020

COVID-19 Guidance

The Government has issued guidance for the full opening of schools in September 2020. We are excited by the prospect of being able to welcome all students back for the term. Senior Leaders are currently planning in line with Government guidance to ensure we can be open to all students in September. **This will involve some re-organisation of our school.** A detailed risk assessment will be in place. The driving principle will be the safety of our students, staff and community. We will be developing the arrangements over the next few weeks to ensure control measures are in place whilst at the same time delivering our high quality broad curriculum.

At this point, we already know these measures will include:

- Reorganisation of the school to ensure that we reduce contacts between students and maximise social distancing as much as is possible.
- A requirement for those with COVID-19 symptoms to self-isolate.
- Engagement with NHS Test and Trace.
- Enhanced and effective hand and respiratory hygiene.

Maintaining 2m social distancing is not possible when all students are back in school. We will be following the guidance to ensure that cohorts of students are kept apart and that we are able to prevent movement between groups and minimise movement around the school.

There is a huge amount of logistical work to complete before plans are finalised and consultation with staff and unions will need to take place. We expect to be able to share these plans with parents/carers during the week commencing 10 August 2020.

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Headteacher: Mr Paul Clayton



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In the meantime, some of our arrangements for the start of term in September are already confirmed:

Staggered Return to school

In order to manage the safe return of all students, we will be following a staggered return to school. Our new Year 7 cohort will return on Tuesday 8 September. Years 8-13 will return on Wednesday 9 September for half a day. This will allow us to induct students in to new ways of working as well as preparing them for the new academic year. The staff will meet the Year 7 students at the main entrance on Fieldhead Road at 8.30am and we will take students to their Form rooms from there. We highly recommend students practice their journey to school prior to starting so they are confident with their route.

Year 7 students will spend the day doing a variety of things such as spending time with their Form Tutor, activities getting to know their new Form class and having a tour of the whole building (which can then be fully cleaned before the rest of the school return on the Wednesday). Students will also be completing some online CATS tests throughout the first week, and we are planning to use all the ICT facilities in school before the rest of the school return to a full timetable. In order to achieve this, we will need to complete some on the Tuesday, however, there is no need for students to do any preparation for these or be worried about them whatsoever and we will take every step to ensure they are anxiety free on the day. They are basic, standard cognitive ability tests and are in no way an alternative to the cancelled SATS exams. We will also use this time on the computers to show students how to log on to our computer network, access their emails, and will be introduced to the online learning platforms we use – the VLE and Teams. On Wednesday 9 September, Year 7 Form Tutors will guide students through the Guiseley School routines, timings of the school day and COVID specific information in the morning and then we plan to have a sample subject lesson in the afternoon. The rest of the week will involve getting to know the school routines and having introductory lessons to their timetabled subjects.

Uniform

All students will be expected to meet the full uniform requirements as published on the school website. If any parents/carers are in need of financial assistance, please contact us via the application on the uniform section of the Guiseley School website.

Attendance

School attendance becomes mandatory again from the beginning of the new term. If you have any questions around attending from September, please contact your child's Pastoral Leader in the first instance.

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Mandatory equipment checklist

Our mandatory equipment list has grown in response to COVID-19 control measures and we would ask all families to ensure that students have all equipment on this list when returning to school in September. A copy of the equipment list is attached with this letter and is also available on the website. There are some additions to the list previously sent due to hygiene restrictions regarding sharing equipment that would normally be lent to students by their teachers. It is also worth clarifying that Guiseley School will provide the planner and exercise books.

Lockers

Due to the Government guidance reducing the amount students move around school, it is likely that Year 7 will not be using lockers when they first arrive in September as their property can be kept safely with them in their classroom, which will be locked at break and lunchtime. We will write to you if there are any changes to this so that you have plenty of time to get your child a padlock if needed.

This year has been the most extraordinary time that I can remember in education and has been challenging in so many different ways. I would like to thank parents for the work that they have done in maintaining an ongoing commitment to education through home learning over the period of closure. This has not been easy and I understand that it has required individual sacrifice. However, the effort made will ensure that many of our young people have maintained a good level of progress and engagement with their studies. This will, in turn, make the process of learning 'recovery' in September a much quicker one than otherwise would have been the case.

I hope you all have a wonderful summer break and we look forward to welcoming our new Year 7 and seeing all of our students return to school in September.

Yours sincerely

Paul Clayton
Headteacher

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Guseley School Equipment List

We are aware that the Guseley School equipment list has grown this year in response to changes in working practices due to CoViD-19 restrictions. If any families feel they are unable to provide any of the equipment on this list, then please contact your Pastoral Team on September 7th.

- **Planner**
- **Black & Green Pens**
- **Pencil**
- **Eraser**
- **Ruler**
- **Exercise Books**
- **Scientific Calculator**
- **Glue Sticks**
- **Pencil Crayons**
- **Small Scissors**
- **Headphones (3.5mm)**
- **Reading book**
- **Drywipe Finetip Pen**



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