



## GUISELEY SCHOOL

25/8/2020

Dear Parent / Carer

We are looking forward to welcoming back all students in to school in just ten days' time. As you will be aware from Mr Clayton's previous correspondence, which is available on the Guiseley School website, Year 7 will return full time from Tuesday September 8<sup>th</sup> whereas Years 8 – 13 will have a half day induction on Wednesday September 9<sup>th</sup> and return full time from Thursday September 10<sup>th</sup>. It would not be an exaggeration to say that staff are very excited about moving back towards normality.

It is important, however, to highlight that the school experience will not be exactly as students remember it. With all year groups operating as bubbles, which means they will only access specific parts of the building for many lessons. Rather than travelling across school to access lessons, teachers will come to the classrooms, particularly for lower years. We will introduce split break times and lunch times in order to maintain the integrity of the bubbles, and there will be some small amendments to the timings of the school day to enable these split breaks and lunches. Mr Clayton will be writing to you next week with specific details of changes that students can expect to see and that you, as parents and carers, need to be aware of.

By the time we return, it will have been almost six months since the entire school community was together in one place. While all students have continued to access learning, either online or via school shared resources, we also have had around fifty students accessing Keyworker School and we were able to welcome back Year 10 in June and July. While I know many students are looking forward to coming back, there can be no question that September could provide a bit of a shock to the system for some of our young people, and some young people may be feeling anxious about coming back. What we know for certain is that the Government have been explicit that attendance to school will again become non-negotiable and, therefore, I have captured some advice below that may help families in preparing for the return:

- 1) Sleep:** We are aware that many students are now on an entirely different sleep schedule to that which might be expected during term time. To support the return to school, we would strongly recommend students begin to return to normal sleeping patterns sooner, rather than later, as this could strongly influence their attendance, punctuality, emotional state and readiness to learn.
- 2) Screen Time / Mobile phones:** Closely linked to sleep is the use of electronic devices and 'screen time'. We are aware from talking to parents, carers and students that the use of screen time has increased significantly since March. Equally, we are aware that some students may find it difficult to not have access to their phones during the day. However, as students will not have access to their phones while at school, we recommend that they students to taper their phone use. A good strategy for this would be to limit the time to an hour or two a day or, linked to the concern around sleep, ensure that all phones are off / inaccessible after 2100.
- 3) Travel:** Although we have no clear indication, at this time, that there will be a significant increase in public transport as part of the solution for schools returning in September, we are actively engaging with transport

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Headteacher: Mr Paul Clayton



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providers and local councillors to encourage an increase in service. However, we expect our young people will have to adapt to different ways of accessing school. This may include getting an earlier bus or train or, as the Government encouraged last week, walking or cycling to school wherever possible. If you think it is likely that your child will have to change the way they travel to school, we would recommend a practice run, or two, to ensure they are comfortable, know the quickest and safest route and understand the timings required.

- 4) **Routines:** You know your child best, and you will have a strong understanding of their current routines. If their general routines will support their return to school, then great, if not, you might want to consider the times they are eating, the time they get out of bed, and how they spend their downtime in the evening. In terms of recommendations, it might be good to begin to spend short amounts of time, perhaps an hour a night, doing school related work, or reading, when they would normally be doing homework.
- 5) **Learning:** We know that this is the single greatest stressor for students in thinking about the return to school. One of the best strategies for alleviating this anxiety, and more broadly preparing to get back into classes, is to begin learning again. Students could re-visit some of their online learning from summer term, reading over notes, practising maths or languages, or could access some of the online resources available through the Guseley VLE, MyMaths, BBC Bitesize or Oak Academy. Small chunks would be advisable, building up to perhaps an hour or two per night in the week before we come back.
- 6) **Equipment:** We are aware of some shops beginning to run low on stock, particularly for some items of uniform, and therefore we would also recommend ensuring your child has all the required equipment as it will be more difficult for school to 'loan' equipment under the new ways of working. The equipment list is attached below, and we would like to clarify that Guseley School will continue to provide exercise books throughout the new school year – we have left it on the checklist so that students can use the list as a daily reminder.

Finally, we are aware that students may feel anxious about their return to school, or may benefit from some additional pastoral support over the coming weeks, and so we need every student to complete the 'Welcome Back' questionnaire that is available via <https://satchel.guseleyschool.org.uk/>. It will only take two minutes to complete and will help us to ensure students receive any support they may require.

As always, we are grateful for your support in ensuring that students are prepared for school and ready to learn. If you have any further queries, you can contact your child's Pastoral Leader via [info@guseleyschool.org.uk](mailto:info@guseleyschool.org.uk)

Kind Regards

Paul Carney  
Deputy 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 7<sup>th</sup>.

*Please note, a tick denotes school provided equipment.*

• <b>Planner</b>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
• <b>Black &amp; Green Pens</b>	<input type="checkbox"/>
• <b>Pencil</b>	<input type="checkbox"/>
• <b>Eraser</b>	<input type="checkbox"/>
• <b>Ruler</b>	<input type="checkbox"/>
• <b>Exercise Books</b>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
• <b>Scientific Calculator</b>	<input type="checkbox"/>
• <b>Glue Sticks</b>	<input type="checkbox"/>
• <b>Pencil Crayons</b>	<input type="checkbox"/>
• <b>Small Scissors</b>	<input type="checkbox"/>
• <b>Headphones (3.5mm)</b>	<input type="checkbox"/>
• <b>Reading book</b>	<input type="checkbox"/>
• <b><u>Drywipe Finetip Pen</u></b>	<input type="checkbox"/>



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