



03 March 2021

Dear Parent/Carer

Further to the information I sent last week, I thought it would be helpful to send you some reminders about our key routines before students return to school. We will remind all students about our routines and expectations on 08 March, but please talk this information through with your child as well.

I am pleased to be able to tell you that our COVID19 testing programme is working really successfully and it has been lovely to see so many of our students coming into school this week. We will publish further details about the timings for the second and third tests later this week.

Remote Education

We will not be delivering remote education after 08 March, as all students should be attending school as normal. Where students are unable to attend school because they are shielding or self-isolating at home, in line with Public Health advice, we will upload resources to Google Classroom for them to use. Post 16 students who are shielding, or self-isolating, will be able to join lessons remotely.

Normal Arrival and Departure times

From Monday 08 March we will be using the same arrival and departure times as we were using before Christmas. These are summarised in the table below

Year Group	Arrive through	Arrival Window	Students must be in school no later than	Departure Time
8	Technology Firedoor	8.20 – 8.35	8.35	15.00
9	Main student entrance	8.20 – 8.35	8.35	15.00
7	Technology Firedoor	8.35 – 8.50	8.50	15.15
10	Main student entrance	8.35 – 8.50	8.50	15.15
11	Technology Firedoor	8.50 – 9.05	9.05	15.30
12 and 13	Sportshall entrance	8.50 – 9.05	9.05	15.30

HEADTEACHER: Mr David Hewitt, BA (Hons), NPQH

DEPUTY HEAD: Mr A Haigh, BSc (Hons)

DEPUTY HEAD: Ms C Mann, BA (Hons)

“Working together to achieve success”

Arrival at and departure from school

Students should not arrive at school before their allocated arrival times. This will help us to maintain social distancing between year groups and ensure students access handwashing facilities at the same time as their own year group. Students will be expected to leave the school site once they are dismissed from school.

Students in Years 12 and 13 have some flexibility in their arrival and departure times, depending on when they have timetabled lessons or study periods. The alternative arrival and departure times for Y12 and Y13 students are

11.05 – 11.20	late morning arrival (if no lesson 1 or 2 on timetable). Entry to the building through the Sportshall entrance
11.20 – 11.30	Morning departure time (if no more lessons after lesson 2). Exit through the Hub doors
14.04 – 14.15	Early afternoon departure time (if no lesson 5 on timetable). Exit through the Hub doors

Travelling to and from School

In line with Government guidance, we recommend that students minimise their use of public transport and walk or cycle to school where possible. If students are cycling to school they should leave their bikes in the following cycle sheds:

- Years 7, 8 and 11 Cycle sheds by the Sportshall
- Years 9,10 and Post 16 Cycle sheds at the front of school

Students should lock their bikes up using a secure bike lock. All bike shops should be able to advise you about suitable locks. We recommend that students wear a cycle helmet when cycling to and from school. Students who bring a bike to school do so at their own risk.

First York will be running their normal bus services. They will have COVID Marshals on buses on a regular basis to check that passengers are wearing facemasks and encourage them to do so if they aren't. We expect all students to cooperate with members of staff from First York and wear facemasks on buses.

Uniform and equipment

All students will be expected to attend school in full uniform and meet our expectations about hair colouring and jewellery. Get Branded is open and orders can be placed online or by calling the shop. Please check that your child's shoes still fit them as well. If you have any questions about uniform, or would like advice about the suitability of any item of uniform, please do not hesitate to get in contact or see the uniform section on our website.

Students should bring a school bag and their personal equipment to school each day as normal. We ask that students are equipped with a black pen, green pen, pencil, rubber, ruler, calculator, dictionary, their student planner and a reading book (essential for Years 7, 8 and 9 and recommended for other year groups). Students should not share equipment.

Students should bring their Planner with them every day and any exercise books they have at home to school on the days where they have timetabled lessons.

PE Lessons and Kit

Students will continue to have PE lessons and will need to have the appropriate PE kit. From 08 March, Boys PE lessons will be Football and Girls PE lessons will be netball.

The next change to PE activities will be communicated to parents/ carers in advance so that students bring the correct kit to school. We will continue with the PE changing room arrangements we used before Christmas to increase the amount of space students have to change in and changing rooms will be cleaned before another year group uses them.

Face Masks

In line with the latest Government guidance, all students and members of staff will have to wear a facemask in school when they cannot maintain 2 metres of social distancing. This requirement will be in place until Friday 26 March. This will mean that students will have to wear facemasks in all corridor areas of the school, in the vast majority of lessons and form times, and when they are in the canteen areas if they are not eating. This will include in PE changing rooms. Facemasks will not need to be worn outside of the school building, but students should maintain social distancing from each other.

I do appreciate that wearing facemasks for longer periods of time may be uncomfortable, but this additional precautionary measure is for a limited period of time. This will add to the other measures school has in place. We know from our experiences since September that when we all take individual responsibility for actions such as wearing facemasks, we collectively reduce the chance of there being transmission of COVID19 in our school community. At break and lunchtimes students will be encouraged to go outside so that they can remove their facemasks and get a break from wearing them.

Given the long periods of time that students have been out of school, and the importance of minimising the chance of students having to self-isolate at home, I would expect all parents and carers to support us in ensuring that students wear facemasks when they should do in school. We know that some students are exempt from wearing facemasks and have their details in school already. If your child has a medical issue that we are not aware of, that means they will not be able to wear a facemask in school, please contact your child's pastoral team so that we are aware of this issue.

Members of staff will not wear facemasks whilst they are in the teaching boxes at the front of their classroom, as they are 2 metres away from all students. This will also make it easier for students to hear and understand instructions.

Face masks that are worn in school should be suitable for a school environment; smart and without motifs and logos. We reserve the right to ask a student to change into a disposable face mask if we feel their face mask is not suitable for school. Students should bring a sealable plastic bag to place their facemask in when they are not wearing it.

Food at break and lunchtimes

The canteen will continue to serve both hot food and sandwiches to students. The Hub and Street areas continue to be split into two areas with separate serving areas so that two year groups can be served at the same time in their year group bubbles. Our staggered break and lunchtimes allow for dining furniture to be cleaned between different year groups. Students will access handwashing facilities before they eat.

Money can be uploaded via Parent Pay as usual. Free School Meals will continue to be credited to students' accounts. The Free School Meal voucher scheme will cease once students are back in school on 08 March.

Due to the staggered start to the school day we are not able to serve food before school.

Meetings with Parents and Carers

To minimise the number of people on site we will not be arranging to meet parents and carers during the school day as part of our normal routines. Face to face meetings with parents and carers will be by prior appointment. This will allow us to arrange a suitable space to meet in whilst we maintain social distancing.

Thank you for your continued support. I know that this is may be an anxious time for some students and their parents/carers, but we will be ready to offer support to any students who need this and look forward to welcoming all our students back to school. If you have any concerns please contact your child's pastoral team in the first instance.

To finish, I would just like to tell you about one of our students in Year 11 who has been fundraising for the Bereaved Children Support charity. Jonny set out to run 5k every day in February to raise money for this charity and his current total is over £5,500. This is a really impressive effort. Well done Jonny!

If you would like to donate any money to this worthy cause, you can do so at:

<https://www.justgiving.com/fundraising/ionny-cole>

Kind regards

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'DAVE', written in a cursive style.

Dave Hewitt
Headteacher