

26th August 2020

Dear Parents and Carers,

I am going to provide some very basic information that will hopefully allow a smooth start to the term for everyone. Much of the theory, thinking and initial work around reopening took place over the summer and the letters, documents and videos can be found here: <https://www.lythamhigh.lancs.sch.uk/parents/support-for-parents-carers-and-students-during-coronavirus>

New Year 7: Parents will be receiving a letter this week explaining more about where to go and what to do. We are very excited to have our new cohort join us and look forward to seeing them in school on **Thursday 3rd September**.

Year 11: Will be returning on **Friday 4th September at 9:40am**, where they will go straight to their form room. They will finish school at 3pm.

Years 8,9 and 10: Parents will receive a letter confirming the form rooms for the new year. You will return to school on **Monday 7th September at 8:40am**, going straight to your form room.

PLEASE REMEMBER THAT YOU SHOULD NOT ATTEND SCHOOL IF YOU ARE DISPLAYING COVID19 SYMPTOMS. YOU SHOULD REMAIN AT HOME, ARRANGE A TEST AND ISOLATE UNTIL THE RESULTS ARE KNOWN.

Face masks: The government guidance was updated last night. We are actively encouraging students to wear sensible face coverings when moving between lessons and allowing students to wear them at other times if it makes them feel comfortable. We would ask students to wear them in the hall whilst queuing for food, but not when getting served or seated. However, there may be instances where we may request that they are removed (in particular lessons, inappropriate face covering, interrupting learning etc.) but we understand that this is a difficult time and will do what we can to make it easier for staff and students. I would ask that all students bring a mask to school each day so that if a situation arises where we need to wear them, then we can.

Arriving at School: Students must enter the site via the gates on Albany Road. If you need to secure your bike, you will be guided round to Albany Road via the grassed area at the front of school.

Travel to/from school: Please remember that students are being encouraged to walk to school. If they require a bus home, then they need to consider walking to the "next" possible stop in order to thin out the traffic on the buses. We are aware of some increase to services by some providers, but we still need to limit the amount of students waiting at bus stops.

Timetable: There are staggered lunches and breaks, but form tutors will explain this on the first day. There are also staggered end times for each year group. Please also note that tutor time is not at the start of the day (but again, form tutors will go over this).

Bubbles: These vary in size, but it is important that we follow the signage around school and keep these in place.

Social time: We have to be sensible and avoid contact with others, so please keep social/physical distancing in place during these times.

Hand Sanitiser: Please use the stations REGULARLY throughout the day. You must sanitise between lessons.

Risk Assessments: These are online on the school website giving a flavour of the processes we have been through to arrive at the decisions we have.

School Uniform: Full school uniform please. *Please bring a coat as we may not be able to accommodate everyone inside during break/lunch with physical distancing measures.*

School Lunches: We are encouraging students to bring their own food/drink. However, the kitchens will be open offering a reduced menu. We expect this to grow quite quickly, so will share more information as the term moves forward.

Water bottles: The fountains will not be in use initially due to infection control **so please bring enough water for the day.**

Toilets: These will operate as normal, with enhanced cleaning. However, there will be staff ensuring that there is sufficient space and that there is no loitering (reducing space for physical distancing).

Movement around site: We will all be following new one way travel systems around school, with many new rules. These are complex and may not always be obvious BUT we have to follow them.

Normal, not Normal: Many people will have been in shops and seen social distancing marking and rules. Schools have been told clearly that we cannot social distance so we believe school will look very similar to how it has always been. This may worry some people, but it is normal. We have implemented changes that keep us safe but try and keep our learning and social time as normal and as safely possible. School will feel a lot busier than shops (they are allowed to limit numbers) but slightly different from last year. We will get the balance right.

Government Updates: The government have also asked parents to visit this site, to explain more about the return to school, hopefully answering questions that are much bigger than just LSA. Information can be found [here](https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/what-parents-and-carers-need-to-know-about-early-years-providers-schools-and-colleges-during-the-coronavirus-covid-19-outbreak)
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I will repeat this regularly in school, but please be aware that these strange time require us all to:

- **Be kind and considerate** (no one knows how anyone else is feeling!)
- **Be patient and understanding....and adapt** (There may be rules you don't agree with and there may be mistakes made. People may not follow guidelines as well as we hope. However, we were an excellent school before lockdown and we will be one again soon.)
- **Be realistic** (Six months is a long time out of school for everyone.)
- **Look after ourselves** (It is a long time out of school, but the work during lockdown shows we are in a great position to pick up where we left off. Everyone will thrive and succeed.)

Thank you all again for your help and support during this time. Thank you also for the trust you have shown in the way we have put in place the government guidelines.

Yours sincerely,



Ray Baker
Headteacher