

1st September 2020

Dear Parent / Carer

Welcome back to the new academic year. I hope you are all well and your child is looking forward to being back in the classroom. I appreciate this is a different start to the term and to help with this please read the information enclosed. In addition to this, a series of short videos will be made available to all students on 2nd September so they are clear on where to go on their induction days (outlined below).

Thursday 3rd September – Years 7 & 11 only (8.15am)

Friday 4th September – Years 8, 9 & 10 only (8.15am)

Monday 7th September – all students return to school for 8.15am

Keeping Everyone Safe

It is essential that students do not attend school if they or anyone in their household displays any symptoms of COVID-19. These are:

- A persistent cough
- A loss of smell or taste
- A high temperature

If symptoms do develop, it is essential that all members of the household isolate and are tested. If your child or anyone in the household has a positive test result then they must isolate for 14 days.

If a student develops the above symptoms in school, they will be isolated and parents / carers contacted. It is essential that we have correct contact details for all our parents and carers and they are able to arrange the collection of their child should they develop symptoms whilst in school.

Pastoral care and wellbeing

Students may be experiencing many different emotions about returning to school after the prolonged school closure. There may also be continued uncertainty with regards the coronavirus pandemic. Many will be excited to see friends and get back to daily routines, while some may feel anxious or apprehensive about September. This may be especially true for our new Year 7 students. Please be reassured that all of our staff, pastoral and safeguarding teams are fully prepared and ready to support, advise and help provide a smooth start to the new school year. Student health and wellbeing will be a particular focus of our personal development curriculum this academic year.

If you have any concerns about your child or wish to share any information with us please contact their Head of Year.

Timings of the School Day

To allow for a safe and staggered start and end to the school day, there will be a slight change to the end of the school day only. Please note the following end of day timings which come into effect from 7th September.

Years 7 and 10 will be dismissed at 2.40pm

Years 8 and 11 will be dismissed at 2.45pm

Year 9 will be dismissed at 2.50pm

Students waiting for buses will be supervised until departure. We are reliant on students maintaining their year group bubbles whilst travelling to and from school.

Please note all students are required to be in school by 8.15am for a 8.20am start. After this time, the school gates will be closed.

Behaviour for Learning Addendum

Please see the behaviour for learning addendum on the website <https://scrchs.net/parents/behaviour-policy>. This should be read with your child.

Any behaviour which poses a risk to anyone else will result in students being sent home.

Hygiene & Cleaning

All students and staff will be required to wash or sanitise their hands on arrival, exit and throughout the school day. Over the summer, the school has been working to ensure that hygiene procedures and enhanced cleaning measures are in place for students and staff returning. In shared areas, where use by year group bubbles may mix, including dining facilities and toilet areas, we have ensured that enhanced cleaning will occur between sessions.

Attendance

The government is clear that school is not optional and all children should attend full time.

There may be circumstances where your child cannot attend. To report an absence please contact our attendance officer Mrs Kirk on 01706 647761 (Option 1).

If returning from a holiday and a quarantine period is in place, please inform the school.

Cashless School

We are now a cashless school and therefore dinner money can only be topped up via ParentPay and PayPoints. Please contact the school for user details to set this account up.

Uniform

The government has stated in guidance that it would 'encourage all schools to return to their normal uniform practices' and 'uniforms do not need to be cleaned any more often than usual, nor do they need to be cleaned using methods which are different to normal.'

Given this, we will be running school as normal with students in full school uniform. We believe that this familiarity will help us to transition back into the routines and expectations of learning in school and being part of our school community.

Please note that PE kit should be worn to school when students have PE timetabled on that day.

Face Coverings

Rochdale is currently an area of national government intervention.

The government advise additional measures are taken in areas where the transmission of the virus is high. In these areas, the government's guidance states:

“face coverings should be worn by adults and pupils in secondary schools when moving around the school, such as in corridors and communal areas where social distancing is difficult to maintain. It will not be necessary to wear face coverings in the classroom, where protective measures already mean the risks are lower, and where they can inhibit learning.”

As such when your child returns to school, we will be following this guidance. Students will be asked to:

1. Come to school with an appropriate plain face covering (this should have ear loops or tie fastening)
2. Wear an appropriate face covering on the school buses.
3. Be expected to wear face coverings when they are moving around school, in corridors and other indoor communal areas.

Reasonable adjustments will of course be made for students who are exempt on medical grounds from wearing face coverings. Please advise us if this applies to your child.

This information is taken from the government link which you can find below:

<https://www.gov.uk/government/news/update-on-face-coverings-in-schools>

Disposable face masks will be disposed of on entry to the building and reusable masks should be stored in a sealed bag.

Catering Arrangements

From September until further notice the school will not be serving breakfast items before school and no food will be served at break time. We do recommend that your child has a breakfast before school and brings a healthy snack and drink for break time. The school will still be serving hot meals at lunchtime, as well as other options. Changes to the lunchtime serving procedure will be explained to students as part of their induction.

Equipment

Students should come to school fully equipped for that they need on that particular day. If students are timetabled to have PE then they should wear their full PE kit to school on that day.

Students should bring:

- School bag, containing their relevant school books for that day.
- Pencil case with pens (black or blue), pencil, ruler and eraser
- Calculator
- Water bottle (filled)
- Packed lunch / break time snack
- Student Notebook (this will be issued to students in their induction day)
- Coat In line with recent government guidance – a face mask.

Transport

School bus service- TfGM have informed us that the school bus service will run as normal but with some adjustments, which include wearing a face covering at all times. The government guidance remains and stipulates that if an alternative method of transport can be used such as, walking, cycling or arriving by car, this is the preferred option. Parents/carers and students are responsible for wearing face covering on public transport and the school bus services.

For more information, please visit <https://tfgm.com/public-transport/schools> for a specific back to school guide.

Contacting/Visiting School

To reduce the number of visitors to the building, we are asking that parents/carers only come into the school building if they have an appointment. We ask that parents/carers wishing to speak to a member of staff contact the school via telephone on 01706 647761. Meetings with parents/carers will, as far as possible, be done online or over the phone for the autumn term. This will be reviewed as government advice changes.

As always, the success of our school is built on the cooperation and partnerships between home and school. I am confident that, working together, we can ensure a smooth and successful return to school for all in September.

We are very much looking forward to welcoming our students on their induction days.

Yours Sincerely

Mr D Shields (Headteacher)