



St. George's School

A Church of England Academy

'Our vision is to be outstanding through the provision of consistent academic excellence within a caring, Christian community'
Headteacher: Mr G Warnock

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17th August 2020

Dear Parents/carers,

I would like to begin by taking this opportunity to thank you all for your invaluable support throughout this extremely challenging academic year. Whilst it has been a year like no other, it has been amazing how everyone has risen to the many challenges that have been thrown at us since the emergence of the coronavirus.

As our young people continue to enjoy the summer, our focus is now shifting towards making final preparations to being fully open in September. Whilst we have been planning for a long time for the new academic year, we are now taking in to account the recently published Government guidance on the full opening of schools in September.

Over the summer break, our site has had a full deep clean and all annual safety checks have been completed. As previously stated, when we reopen we will be following government guidelines when pupils return in relation to:

- Minimising contact with those who are unwell.
- Cleaning hands thoroughly and more often.
- Ensuring good respiratory hygiene by promoting 'catch it, bin it, kill it' approach.
- Enhanced cleaning.
- Minimising contact between individuals and year groups (including separate family breaks and family lunch for all year groups)

Although we will need to make adjustments as to how the school day will run, we are fully committed to ensuring each of our pupils will still experience the full range of curriculum subjects which underpin 'The SG Way'. Normally, we expect all pupils to be on site by 8.20am. However, on our first day back (ONLY) the start times are staggered as indicated in the table below. Many schools are going for a phased return over a week, but we feel that, with the plans we have in place, it is beneficial for our young people to get back to a normal routine as quickly as possible.

First day back starting times

Year group	Start time
Year 7, Year 8, Year 9	Wednesday 2 nd September 08:20
Year 10 & Year 11	Wednesday 2 nd September 10.45

We're looking forward to welcoming everyone back on Wednesday 2nd September 2020, and we are working hard to make the school a safe, enjoyable environment.

Progress Worries

We all are concerned that the interruption to school has impacted our child's learning. Whilst there will be challenges for us to address and learning gaps to be filled, I must ask that you maintain the position of not worrying about this and allow the school to take on this burden. We are confident that with the development of our curriculum booklets, alongside the expertise of our teaching team, we will ensure your child has all the knowledge they will need for whatever stage they are at in their education. In this letter it outlines our catch up strategy, but please don't worry, no child is going to be judged or get in trouble for the amount of work they have done in comparison to others.

Attendance

Attendance will be mandatory in September, as the government expects all pupils to attend school. The usual rules will apply, meaning we will be recording attendance and following up on any absences. If your children have been staying at home due to the current shielding guidance, the government has paused this guidance on 1 August. That means they should be able to come back to school in September. However, if you've received clinical or public health advice that your children should still remain at home, please let us know and continue to follow that guidance. We'll be offering remote education to these pupils.

Uniform and Equipment

We look forward to seeing our pupils in their full academy uniform on their first day back, fully equipped and following our clearly visible and communicated uniform, presentation and equipment policy. We ask you to study this carefully and avoid causing your child any unnecessary anxiety by following the policies. Having the correct equipment is particularly important given the current situation as pupils are not permitted to share. Our policies can be found on the academy website. We want the return to be as anxious-free as possible, so please keep in mind the policies especially on footwear, haircuts and false nails. Allow time now for lines to grow out and for false nails/eye lashes to be removed.

In the first few days, we will be working hard to repurpose and reconnect with our pupils after such an extended period of time away from usual academy life; these activities will be vital to allow us to build in good hygiene habits and engage the pupils as quickly as possible back into the curriculum and learning. In line with the guidance, we will be adopting a year group bubble approach which includes year group family breaks and lunch. It is important to read our [updated FAQ document](#), attached at the end of this document, which gives more information on what September will look like in the academy, subject to no further changes in government guidance. If you have any questions or queries, please contact the academy by using the google form link at the end of this letter.

Finally, I would like to thank you for your support and positivity through what has been a challenging year. I know our families have been working hard at home to balance home-schooling along with other commitments. Our thoughts remain, as always, with families who have been affected by the virus.

Yours sincerely

G Warnock

G Warnock

https://docs.google.com/forms/d/e/1FAIpQLSdc_KY0ldblt3X9jil_1dbKRYeWZjyn6y9Selmsz3DxG2eeug/viewform?usp=sf_link

St George's School – Frequently asked questions

Question – Where do pupils go on the first day?

Answer – Pupils should arrive in good time at the normal pupil entrance. They will be greeted by a member of staff who will inform them of their Tutor Group, support them developing good sanitising habits at one of our many sanitising points and direct them to the year group section of the year. It is important to re-enforce with your child that where possible, including walking to and from the Academy (with siblings being the exception) they should only be socialising with pupils from their own year group. This will support our year group bubble strategy.

Question – How will pupils be grouped in bubbles?

Answer – We have adopted a year group bubble model so that line up, morning meetings, worship, lessons, break and dinner will be in year groups with distancing between other groups. Line up already occurs outside which reduces transmission risk. In the event of rain, pupils would be directed straight to their tutor rooms. To support distancing, we have extended the school yard so that we have between 5m to 10m distance between each year group bubble.

Question – What will lessons look like?

Answer – At St George's we already have very strict routines to support lesson behaviour. Our classroom expectations will remain the same. Our teachers have been working hard to develop curriculum booklets in every subject and these will help close any gaps and accelerate progress. We are still waiting for guidance on subjects such as PE and practical subjects but, as we are committed to a full curriculum, we intend for these lessons to continue in an adopted form. Every classroom will have a sanitising point on entry and exit for pupils to use as part of their normal routines.

Question – How will changeover between lessons work?

Answer – In keeping a full curriculum, pupils will need access to specialist classrooms and as such will move around the site. At St George's we already operate single file, walking on the left hand side, silent transitions which reduces proximity to other pupils. We know from scientific guidance that transitory transmission (passing on the virus whilst on the corridor) is low. Please discuss the importance of single file and maintaining distancing with your child. Any pupil blatantly flouting single file will be sanctioned. Our goal is to minimise risk as much as possible throughout the day.

Question – Are you having any staggered starts or finishes to the academy day?

Answer – We consulted on extending the academy day for everyone. As previously stated from September, year 7-9 will finish at 3.00pm and year 10-11 at 3.30pm. From January the whole academy will finish at 3.30pm. Extending our day allows us to catch up on lost learning and gives our young people an advantage over others locally, and nationally. Dismissal at the end of the day will follow our silent transition policy, walking on the left, as year 10 and year 11 will still be being taught. This will also support social distancing off site. We ask you to discuss the importance of not waiting in groups outside of the school gates and beyond with your child.

Question – Will you be making any changes to the behaviour policy?

Answer – The majority of pupil's at St George's are excellent role models. Our behaviour policy has been very strict for the last few years and we experience very little disruption. This is one of the reasons our young people leave with the best results in Blackpool and the Fylde. Any pupils wilfully ignoring rules around physical contact/distancing will be dealt with through our sanctions protocol.

Question – How will break and lunch work with such large numbers?

Answer – We will manage break and lunch by having a separate lunch for each year group. We have changed our day internally so that year 10 and 11 will have lunch at 12.20pm and 12.40pm. Year 10 and 11 will also sit in an allocated zone. Year 7 to year 9 will have lunch between the times of 1.00pm to 2.00pm. These year groups will sit with their tutor family in the same seat every day. As a family, we will be teaching good habits on setting tables, clearing tables, cleaning tables and leaving them as you found them. Each pupil will also have time outside in the yard with their own year group. Sanitising stations will also be available before and after each pay point.

Unfortunately, the refectory cannot be opened in the morning before the day starts because different year groups would be mixing indoors together for a period of time. We will be reviewing this as the national picture develops.

Question – What are the expectations around uniform?

Answer – Full and correct uniform is expected for all. The academy has a stock of uniform that it will be able to share with pupils for any infringements. The stock has been quarantined and will be distributed, where necessary following government guidance. Our uniform and presentation policy is on the website. Please check this carefully, especially in relation to footwear. None of us want to start the term off on a bad footing. When we choose St George's we agree to follow the rules. Tie colours are as follows- Year 7 – Purple, Year 8 – Gold, Year 9 and 10 – same as previous year, Year 11 black tie with red stripe.

Question – Will we still be using school bags?

Answer – Yes, all pupils require a school bag as set out in the uniform policy. All pupils should also have all the correct equipment. Before we broke up we supplied pencil cases to all year 7 and year 8 that needed them. We still have some in stock for other years if they are required. Parents can support our young people by helping them check they have everything they need ready for the following day.

Question – How will the academy maintain the strict hygiene regime?

Answer – We have increased the number of cleaners on site and the hours that they work. Each classroom will have access to cleaning materials which can be used when year group bubbles change over. Every classroom will also have hand sanitiser on entry/exit of the classroom. However, as not all desks will be cleaned between all lessons, our focus must remain on exemplary personal hygiene. We encourage pupils to make the best use of the toilet facilities at break and lunch. Our toilets will have a cleaner on hand throughout the day and they will be regularly cleaned throughout the day. Please reiterate that everyone must wash their hands regularly and avoid touching their faces.

All classrooms, social spaces and toilets have been fitted with lidded bins to support 'catch it, kill it and bin it'.

Question – Will visitors be allowed on site?

Answer – For the first half term, there will be no meetings on site, no events after the academy day and our learning hub/library will be closed. We will also be unable to fulfil unscheduled meetings and will only be able to bring parents onto site in pre-arranged meetings following social distancing rules. The reception will remain open, but access cannot be given past the first doors into the academy. We ask you to communicate via email or telephone where possible and we will have online meetings, if required.

Question – What will the first aid procedures be?

Answer – The most important rule is that pupils must NOT be sent to the academy if they are displaying symptoms related to Covid19. Where a pupil is displaying symptoms related to Covid19, they will be removed and isolated. They will be attended to by a member of staff in a higher grade of PPE. Parents will be contacted and asked to collect their child and follow Public Health England guidance. Following any incidents or outbreaks the Academy will follow and take direction from the government and Public Health England.

Question – What do I need to do if my child has a care plan?

Answer – Parents of pupils who currently have a care plan will be required to review the plan and return it to the academy with any further details prior to September.

Online Provision

Our teachers have been working hard to produce curriculum booklets which cover every lesson in every subject. We are also completing more training on the use of google classroom. If we are forced into a local lockdown we will issue guidance on completing the online work and how to submit it for marking and feedback via google classroom. Our curriculum booklets will allow the academy to carry on with the curriculum thereby minimising any issues of our young people falling behind their peers nationally.

Catch up

We intend to run after school and Saturday school catch up provision once we have identified our learning gaps. Our initial plans would involve asking year groups to attend for a Saturday so that we complete some diagnostic testing on progress, attitudes to learning and mental strength. We would prefer to complete these on a Saturday as pupils have already lost enough curriculum time during lockdown.