

June 2020

Dear Year 10 Parents

I hope that you and your family are well. Further to my letter before half term, I would like to update you on our plans for the return of Year 10 students.

I met with Wirral secondary head teachers this week along with the Director and Public Health Wirral and we were reassured to hear from them that there are no public health reasons why we should not move forward with our plans for the wider opening of schools. Public Health Wirral are reassured by the detailed risk assessments that all schools have in place and are confident that these ensure that we are offering safe environments for students and staff.

Thank you for your response to our survey and subsequent phone calls informing us that you wish to take up a place for your son/daughter prior to the summer break. We have been working hard on developing our tuition programme for Year 10 students and I would like to share some of the key points of this with you.

I understand that there is a lot of information in this letter but please can I ask you to read this carefully so that you and your son/daughter are fully briefed about our plans before returning to school. Pastoral staff will make contact with you over the coming days to provide final details.

Important information to note:

- Year 10 students will be split into two groups – Team A and Team B.
- Team A and Team B students will attend school on alternate weeks to limit the number of students in the building at any one time.
- Students will attend school for Periods 1 and 2 only, ensuring there is no social interaction at break or lunchtime. Students will arrive at the normal school start time of 8.35am and will be dismissed at 10.35am.
- Students will be taught in groups of no more than 8 and will remain in their teaching group or “bubble” as far as possible to minimise interaction.
- Students will follow an adapted timetable of English, Maths, Science and some option subjects and may not be taught by their normal teacher.
- Classrooms has been adapted to ensure 2m social distancing of desks and students will be allocated a specific desk.
- Social distancing will be strictly implemented at all times, including supermarket style queuing for entry and exit from the building. Please reinforce this important message with your son/daughter. Students who fail to follow health and safety guidance may be asked to work from home.
- Students will be directed to enter and exit the building through the Year 7 entrance. Please encourage your son/daughter to follow staff instructions at all times. Students should also be reminded not to congregate in groups as they arrive or leave the school site.
- Students will wear school shirt/blouse, trousers/skirt and black shoes but no blazer to enable daily clothes washing/changing.
- Students will be provided with their own stock of equipment, including personal hand sanitizer, to ensure no sharing of stationery, books etc. Students should not bring a bag to school.

- We would encourage students to walk or cycle to and from school to avoid public transport if possible. If this is not possible, please refer to <https://www.gov.uk/guidance/coronavirus-covid-19-safer-travel-guidance-for-passengers> for guidance on safer travel.
- Communication with parents will be limited to phone/email to limit face to face contact in the building. Emergency face to face parental meetings in school will be limited to one member of family and will be by appointment only
- As Year 10 students will not remain in school over break and lunch time, the current voucher system will remain in place for those students eligible for Free School Meals.
- Water fountains will be turned off so please ensure that your son/daughter brings a water bottle to school if required.
- Students must not attend school if they are showing any symptoms of Covid-19. Please inform the school as soon as possible if this is the case and follow the government guidance <https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/covid-19-stay-at-home-guidance/stay-at-home-guidance-for-households-with-possible-coronavirus-covid-19-infection>.

The school's full Risk Assessment is available on the website and this provides comprehensive information on our plans for the wider opening of the school:
<https://www.birkenheadparkschool.com/parents/coronavirus>.

Our Year 10 tuition programme will provide a valuable opportunity for your son/daughter to benefit from some face to face time with specialist subject staff. Remote learning plans for Year 10 have also been updated and these will complement the tuition programme in school - please look out for a separate letter outlining exciting new developing being launched next week.

Finally, in order to share our plans and expectations for students' return, we will be holding a series of "welcome back" sessions for Year 10 students next Wednesday 17th June and Thursday 18th June. Students will be allocated into groups within either Team A or Team B and will come into school for an hour to meet with SLT and pastoral staff. We will get in touch over the coming days to let you know which day and time your son/daughter is required in school.

Year 10 tuition will commence on Monday 22nd June for Team A and Monday 29th June for Team B. See below for an overview of the plan until the summer holidays:

Wednesday 17 th June	Welcome Back sessions for Team A students – time to be confirmed
Thursday 18 th June	Welcome Back sessions for Team B students – time to be confirmed
Monday 22 nd June – Friday 26 th June	Tuition for Team A students
Monday 29 th June – Friday 3 rd July	Tuition for Team B students
Monday 6 th July – Friday 10 th July	Tuition for Team A students
Monday 13 th July – Friday 17 th July	Tuition for Team B students

I am aware that this letter contains a lot of information. Please do not hesitate to contact school if you have any questions or concerns.

We look forward to seeing your son/daughter back in school next week.

Stay safe and well.

Yours faithfully



Helen Johnson
Headteacher