

21 July 2020

Dear Parents/Carers

As we approach the end of an extraordinary school year, our thoughts are almost immediately turning to what will be a rather different (but hopefully less extraordinary) start to the Autumn term. Staff have been working hard, attempting to apply government guidelines to the realities of Hinchingbrooke as a school. We believe that, based on current guidance, we will be in a good position to open for all students in September, enabling students to learn in as normal an environment as possible.

One particular challenge has been the question of 'zoning' (students remaining in particular areas of the school to avoid mixing with other year groups). After careful consideration we believe that the size of our school site raises concerns for student safety, if students were to remain unsupervised in a classroom whilst staff potentially move from one part of the site to another. We have therefore taken the decision not to zone students in terms of teaching rooms, but year group specific zones will be in operation during all non-lesson time. This decision not to use zones will also enable us to provide a curriculum as close to the normal one as possible in the circumstances. In order to minimise risks associated with students moving around the site we have put in place a wide range of measures detailed in the attached booklet (pages 14 and 15). Please take the time to read the booklet – we are sure that there will be many questions regarding the new routines and hope that most of these will be answered therein. At the beginning of the booklet there is a summary of the key points written with students in mind and we would encourage you to ensure that your child has read these (if not the whole booklet) before they return to school in September.

We would like to take this opportunity to draw your attention to a few key points relating to the reopening of the school.

## School Reopening Programme

In order to ensure all students have the opportunity to have these new routines and expectations fully explained to them as well as having an opportunity to discuss matters arising from their experiences of lockdown and ask questions about the new year, we will be having a staggered start to the year. This will give students the opportunity for more pastoral time initially, as opposed to lesson time, and for them to walk the site. When students are not in school in this first week, work will be set for completion at home. All students will commence lessons on Thursday 10 September 2020. Below is a table showing which days students will be in school (✓) and which days they will be working from home (WFH).

	Monday 7th	Tuesday 8th	Wednesday 9th	Thursday 10th	Friday 10th
Year 7	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓
Year 8		✓	WFH	✓	✓
Year 9		✓	WFH	✓	✓
Year 10		WFH	✓	✓	✓
Year 11		WFH	✓	✓	✓
Year 12	✓	✓	WFH	✓	✓
Year 13		WFH	✓	✓	✓

## Equipment

In order to comply with Government hygiene guidance, the school will not be able to loan equipment to students. It is therefore crucial that your child takes responsibility for ensuring they have the correct equipment as detailed on our website. In order to mitigate the much more restrictive classroom regulations, each student will be given a mini whiteboard, pen, and wipe, which they should bring to all lessons. Although hand sanitiser will be available across the school site, we would like students to bring their own small bottle with them so that they can easily maintain good hygiene practices. Students should be in full school uniform, as detailed on the website. The equipment list is also on page 14 of the booklet.

## Transport

If possible, we would encourage students to walk or cycle to school, ensuring they are maintaining appropriate social distancing. If this is not possible students may travel by car. In this instance we would ask that they are dropped off away from the school site and walk the last part of their journey. School buses will still be running for those students who cannot travel to and from school any other way. However, in line with recent guidance students will be expected to wear a face mask for the duration of their journey and to sit in a designated seat.

We realise that this all appears rather complicated and may well make students feel apprehensive about returning to school. Having been through this planning stage for the return of Year 10 and Year 12 students this half term, we have seen how these anxieties quickly fade once students are back in school. This was due in a large part to students meeting expectations and following the new routines so brilliantly, as a result of reading the information they were sent prior to their return. We are really excited to be able to welcome our whole school community back in September and hope that the information contained in the booklet will help us all to prepare for and make the most of this return to school.

Best wishes



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