



# **Important Guidance on the Re-opening of School**

**September 2020**

<https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/actions-for-schools-during-the-coronavirus-outbreak/guidance-for-full-opening-schools>

## **Health and Safety**

Our risk assessment and buildings risk assessment has been updated and presented to the local authority's health and safety team in August. The risk assessment can be found on the school website and has been circulated to all staff, parents and students via email. It is a working document which is changing constantly as new guidelines and procedures are added. Please continue to read the document to be familiar with the procedures we all have to follow. The safe return to school for all students and staff is of paramount importance to the leadership team and governing body and we will ensure that all public health requirements are strictly adhered to in our day to day running of the school.

## **September 2020**

School will reopen for **Years 7, 8, 12 and 13 only** on **Wednesday 9 September**. Year 7 have unfortunately not had any formal transition from primary and it is important that they have an opportunity to settle into school life. **Years 9, 10 and 11 will return to school on Thursday 10<sup>th</sup> September**. It is also vital that we have a staggered approach to our whole school return, in order to ensure our safety procedures are adhered to effectively. Students will be based in their tutor bases to ensure they understand the new school procedures. If any Year 9, 10 or 11 parent requires their child to be in school on Wednesday due to child care arrangements, then we can accommodate students in small year group bubbles until their full return on the 10 September.

## **Transport**

We support government advice which recommends that students would be safer walking, cycling or traveling in cars with parents to school. The scholar's bus will be in operation but due to restricted numbers we will only be allowing Year 7 students on the bus for the first two weeks. Students without a facemask will not be permitted to enter the bus. We will be conducting a full school survey on transport in the first week back to school. This will give us an idea of

who is using public transport and whether they require the scholar's bus. This may assist the school in gaining extra capacity from the local authority or the bus companies. If students must use public transport, they must wear a face mask or they will not be permitted to travel, this is also in place to reduce the risk of transmission.

### **Attendance**

From September, the local authority will resume formal attendance monitoring. All students are expected to attend school every day. If a student is absent, our attendance team will contact home. Failure to attend school will lead to a fine from the local authority. Please make every effort to encourage your children to attend school.

### **Uniform**

Students will be required to wear school uniform in line with the uniform policy. If your child has a PE lesson, they should come to school wearing their PE kit for that day. Changing rooms cannot be used due to Covid-19 safety guidance.

### **Organisation of Year Groups**

All students will be organised into year group bubbles and have a designated area in school where they can have breaks and lunchtime. Each bubble will have a separate start and finish time, break and lunchtime. (Two bubbles will be on break and lunch at same time but will be separated) This will ensure that students only mix with students in their own year group each day. Staff will be on duty constantly to monitor the safe movement of students around the school.

### **Extra - curricular activities**

From the beginning of term, we will not be running an extra - curricular programme in school. We would like to get back to a normal 5 lesson routine in the first half term. After this period and when further guidance is available, we anticipate that we will return

to a wide variety of after school clubs for our students. This will also assist with the cleaning of the school for the following day.

## **School Meals**

The school bistro will be open as usual for all students from September. There will be no breakfast provision initially, so students will be required to have breakfast at home. There will be a varied provision at break and lunch including some takeaway items. Students will also have the opportunity to order food in advance to avoid queues. We recommend that parents use SIMs Pay, where possible, to minimise the handling of cash and limit the use of the biometric thumb print machine.

### **First week**

**Year 7 will be required to bring a packed lunch for the first week back to school.** Free School Meal students will be provided with a packed lunch from school, this will allow us to safely update our biometric school meal system. Students from all year groups are able to bring a packed lunch to school, which can be eaten in break out areas to minimise contact with other students, however the bistro will be open for anyone who requires school meals.

Normal lunch arrangements will resume week beginning Monday 14 September.

## **Curriculum**

The DFE guidance on the reopening of schools has detailed advice on providing a relevant curriculum for our students. Throughout the coming weeks, we will be ensuring that the following considerations are met at Boldon.

- Teach an ambitious and broad curriculum in all subjects from the start of the autumn term, but make use of existing flexibilities to create time to cover the most important missed content: Up to and including key stage 3, prioritisation within subjects of the most important components for progression is likely to be more effective than removing subjects, which students may struggle to pick up again later. In particular, schools may consider how all

subjects can contribute to the filling of gaps in core knowledge, for example through an emphasis on reading.

- Aim to return to the school's normal curriculum in all subjects by summer term 2021: Substantial modification to the curriculum may be needed at the start of the year, so teaching time should be prioritised to address significant gaps in students' knowledge with the aim of returning to the school's normal curriculum content by no later than summer term 2021.
- Plan on the basis of the educational needs of students: Curriculum planning should be informed by an assessment of students' starting points and addressing the gaps in their knowledge and skills, in particular making effective use of regular formative assessment (for example, quizzes, observing students in class, talking to students to assess understanding, scrutiny of students' work) while avoiding the introduction of unnecessary tracking systems.
- Develop remote education so that it is integrated into school curriculum planning: Remote education may need to be an essential component in the delivery of the school curriculum for some students, alongside classroom teaching, or in the case of a local lockdown. All schools are therefore expected to plan to ensure any students educated at home for some of the time are given the support they need to master the curriculum and so make good progress.

## **School Day, Breaks and Lunchtime**

The detailed plan of the revised school day is attached. Year groups will be organised into bubbles and have an allocated area in the school as a teaching base. Year 7, 8 and 9 students will have very limited movement within the school. This will mean that some subjects will be taught differently from September to these year groups including technology, food, music, PE and ICT. Public health guidance has highlighted safety concerns with regard to sharing the typical equipment we would use in these subjects. Students will be based in the same area and our classroom teachers will move to teach in these areas accordingly.

## **Vulnerable students and families**

From Saturday 1 August the government paused shielding unless the transmission of COVID-19 in the community started to rise significantly. Where schools apply the full measures of the Government guidance by completing the Building/Task Based RA, the risks to all staff will be mitigated significantly, including those who are extremely clinically vulnerable and clinically vulnerable, we expect this will allow most staff and students to return to school.

- Clinically Extremely Vulnerable (CEV) (high risk category) – The pastoral team will contact parents of these students to complete a plan to support their individual needs and all steps will be taken to enable them to return to a safe environment. Heads of year will contact all parents of vulnerable students before the term begins.
- Clinically Vulnerable (CV) (moderate risk category) now that the Government have relaxed these measures, we anticipate that all students will return to school in September. We will be contacting all parents to ensure that we have the correct information regarding medical issues and will work closely with families to ensure that all requirements are met.

## **Face masks**

Face masks are not required to be worn in classrooms and we will expect students or staff not to wear masks in the classroom. Students / Staff can use facemasks whilst travelling in corridors or in communal break out areas if this makes them feel safer when more students are moving around. Staff will be on duty during every break / changeover to ensure that a calm atmosphere is adhered to.

## **Lockdown arrangements**

The government have recently updated their guidance on what would occur if South Tyneside was classified as a lockdown area. In the first instance the school would remain open, but all students and staff would be required to wear a facemask at all times until the lockdown arrangements were eased. Further restrictions may follow but this would be introduced by the government. Much more detailed information is contained within the risk assessment document.

## **September 2020 Revised Timetable**

Please see below our revised daily timetable for all year groups from September 2020

| <b>Year Group</b> | <b>Entrance</b> | <b>Break Out Area</b>    | <b>Start Time</b>                           | <b>Break</b>       | <b>Lunch Time</b>                            | <b>Finish time</b> |
|-------------------|-----------------|--------------------------|---|--------------------|--|--------------------|
| <b>Year 7</b>     | Humanities      | Humanities Breakout Area | 8.45am                                      | 10.45am to 11.00am | 12.15pm to 12.45pm                           | 2.40pm             |
| <b>Year 8</b>     | Technology      | Technology Breakout Area | 8.40am                                      | 11.00am to 11.15am | 12.45pm to 1.15pm                            | 2.50pm             |
| <b>Year 9</b>     | Main Stairs     | Staff Room Breakout Area | 8.35am                                      | 10.30am to 10.45am | 11.45pm to 12.15pm                           | 2.45pm             |
| <b>Year 10</b>    | Technology      | Bistro Breakout Area     | 8.30am                                      | 10.30am to 10.45am | 11.45am to 12.15pm                           | 2.40pm             |
| <b>Year 11</b>    | Main Stairs     | Maths Breakout Area      | 8.30am                                      | 11.00am to 11.15am | 12.45pm to 1.15pm                            | 2.45pm             |
| <b>Year 12</b>    | Main Entrance   | Common Room              | Flexible start times depending on timetable | 12.15pm to 12.45pm | Flexible finish times depending on timetable |                    |
| <b>Year 13</b>    | Main Entrance   | Common Room              |   |                    |  |                    |