

8th July 2020

Dear Students, Parents and Carers

RE: Our Return to School in September

As promised in last week's newsletter I am writing with details of our return to school plans in September. I am delighted to share with you our plans to have all students on-site full-time. This is fantastic news and I am sure that you will share my excitement as we look to fully re-open FPSS.

The following pages explain arrangements for September, including changes we are putting in place due to the pandemic, and our Risk Assessment following the new government guidance that can be found by following this link: <https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/actions-for-schools-during-the-coronavirus-outbreak/guidance-for-full-opening-schools>.

While I am sure that in time we will revert to our 'normal' practice, you will appreciate that Term One will look slightly different as we ensure a safe return for all students and staff. Please read the following letter carefully so you are aware of what to expect. I am afraid I must also add my regular caveat that what follows is dependent on nothing changing, notably in regard to the government guidance. Should this occur I will write again to update you.

Start to Term

Students and staff will return to school on the published dates:

Tuesday 1st September **INSET Day for staff only.**

Wednesday 2nd September **Year 7 (from 8.45) and Year 12 (from 9.15) only.**

Thursday 3rd September **All Year Groups**

Year Group Bubbles, Curriculum and Tutor Period

As per the government advice our aim will be to keep students in year group bubbles. Bubbles of this size enable our full curriculum to be taught across the school. Unfortunately, this means we will need to suspend our vertical tutor groups (which contain students from all years) until some of the Covid restrictions are lifted. Our Sixth Form will be one bubble.

Times of the Day

We will be changing our regular lesson times to accommodate staggered starts and ends to the day, as well as breaks. Year 7 and 9 students will start at 8.45am and end at 2.45pm. All other year groups will start at 9.15 and end at 3.15pm. This allows us to run the same lesson time as normal.

Years 7 and 9	
Start	8.45
Lesson 1	8.45-9.45
Break	9.45-10.15
Lesson 2	10.15-11.15
Lesson 3	11.15-12.15
Break	12.15-12.45
Lesson 4	12.45-1.45
Lesson 5	1.45-2.45
End	2.45

Years 8, 10, 11, 12 & 13	
Start	9.15
Lesson 1	9.15-10.15
Lesson 2	10.15-11.15
Break	11.15-11.45
Lesson 3	11.45-12.45
Lesson 4	12.45-1.45
Break	1.45-2.15
Lesson 5	2.15-3.15
End	3.15

Timetables

Students will receive their timetable on their first day back. They will also be available on Go 4 Schools from 1st September. Students will have a full timetable and lessons for all subjects. No changes have been made to the curriculum.

Travelling to and from FPSS

We are lucky in that the vast majority of our students walk and cycle to school. Students should follow the social distancing rules on the way to and from school, respecting others that they pass on their journey. We will have the field gate and front entrance open in September.

For those coming via public transport masks will need to be worn. If students are being driven to school, please can parents and carers stay in the car as they drop off. Sixth Formers are able to drive to school as normal.

There are some students who get to site quite early in the morning. Please can I ask that your children do not arrive too early as this may lead to bubbles being mixed. If students could arrive no more than 15 minutes prior to their start time this would be appreciated.

Uniform

We will return to our normal uniform in September. A reminder that details of our uniform can be found on our website <https://www.furzeplatt.com/page/?title=School+Uniform&pid=39>. This includes ties and blazers. If you have any old uniform or PE kit please donate this to the PTFA by leaving in reception.

I am aware several students have experimented with hair colourings over the lockdown period. Please can you ensure that hair colour returns to a natural shade and jewellery is worn as per our uniform guidelines.

PPE

Government guidance continues to indicate that PPE is not required in schools. However, as we have done this summer we will leave it to staff and student discretion as to whether they choose to wear PPE in school.

Equipment

Students should not be sharing equipment. Please make sure that students have all they need for school. Specialist equipment used in school (e.g. in Technology, Science or PE) will be treated as per the guidelines to prevent the spread of coronavirus.

Breaks and Toilets

Year group bubbles will have their own areas of school and the field for break times. They will need to stay in these zones. These areas will include toilets dedicated to a particular year group. We will provide a map detailing this zones closer to September.

Food and Drink

Our canteen will re-open in September. There will be two serveries, one in the Hall and one in our Café. Year 7, 8 and 9 will be able to access one of these areas only each break. Year 10 and 11 will have one break per day when they are able to access these areas. Our Sixth Form will be asked to access the Café outside break times. Given these arrangements students may wish to bring in a snack. As ever, students are welcome to bring a packed lunch should they not wish to purchase food on-site. We are currently looking at safe ways in which we can utilise our biometric finger system.

All students are advised to bring a full water bottle to school each day.

Lessons

Students should expect different styles of lessons to which they have been used to. The guidance says students should be sat facing the front with no social distancing required between students. While I am certain that our teachers will plan creative lessons, such arrangements are likely to mean less interactive lessons and minimal group work. Students will be expected to hand sanitise as they enter and leave the classrooms. They will need to listen to their teachers to learn the expected routines on entering, exiting and moving around each room.

FPSS Staff

In order to run a full curriculum and timetable, as well as provide pastoral, medical and other services, our staff will move between bubbles as per the guidance. It is important that staff keep **two metres** from students and students keep **two metres** from staff. While there are times when this will be difficult please can we ensure that students understand their responsibility.

There may be a few staff exceptions to this rule. For example, some Learning Support Assistants, who look after specific students, may be part of the Year Group Bubbles.

Enhanced Cleaning

We will have a team of cleaners ensuring that communal areas and toilets are cleaned regularly. However, we will have over 1500 students and staff on-site each day and so it is important that we all take responsibility for our own hygiene.

Washing Hands

We are now all very familiar with the need to wash our hands regularly. This is again emphasised in the new guidance. We will have sinks, soap and hand sanitiser around site. Please encourage students to maintain high hygiene standards.

Catch it, kill it, bin it

Likewise, we are all familiar with the 'Catch it, kill it, bin it' slogan. Please encourage students to follow this guidance.

Students Exhibiting Symptoms

If students have symptoms, do not send them to school but please keep them at home and seek NHS advice. Should a student exhibit symptoms in school they will be isolated and parents and carers will be asked to collect their child.

Potential Positive Covid Cases

Should we have positive cases we would follow the government guidance and Royal Borough of Windsor and Maidenhead's advised actions. If one student or staff member tested positive, we would use the government's Test and Trace process. Should we have more than one positive case this is classed as an 'outbreak' and we would be advised by RBWM and Public Health as to the next steps, in all likelihood isolating specific groups of students and staff.

Educational Provision in the case of a Local Lockdown

As we have seen in Leicester there remains the potential for a school or local area lockdown. Should this be the case and a group of students need to isolate we would provide online learning which would be a mixture of recorded lessons, set work and online tutorials.

Catch-Up

You will have read in the press concerns about students who may have fallen behind or require extra support as we return to school. We have planned for this and will be using class-based work and assessments to identify students we feel may benefit from additional assistance. Details of this will be circulated in September.

Sixth Form

Our Sixth Form will have places to work independently around site when they are not in lessons. However, in order to maintain space around site we will not initially run our Independent Study sessions and students will be able to leave site when they do not have lessons. This is a temporary arrangement which we will look to reverse in the autumn term.

We will also be looking to run individual or small group slots with Sixth Form Tutors in order to support students, not least with their UCAS applications. Mr Ging will write to students separately about this.

Extra-Curricular

When we open in September we will be offering catch-up programmes rather than our normal wealth of extra-curricular activities. As term progresses we will look to begin our extra-curricular clubs depending on advice at that time. This would initially have to be year group based while the bubbles stay in place.

Trips and Visits

Sadly, the current guidance says that no overnight visits are possible. We are keen to re-launch visits once this has changed.

2021 Examinations

Finally, some students, parents and carers will have seen in the press that Ofqual are consulting on changes to GCSE and A Level examinations for next year. This clearly has implications for students entering Year 11 and 13 in September. Details of that consultation can be found by following this link <https://www.gov.uk/government/consultations/proposed-changes-to-the-assessment-of-gcses-as-and-a-levels-in-2021>. We will update you when things become clearer.

Thank you for taking the time to read this letter. I am sure that you will share my delight at being able to open FPSS to all year groups. However, that delight is accompanied by caution as we need all our students and staff to return safely in September. To do this all members of our community must take responsibility in following what is detailed in this letter.

By following the guidance, we will hopefully be keeping each other, as well as our family and friends, safe and well.

Yours sincerely



Dr Andrew Morrison
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