

10th September 2020

Dear Parents and Carers,

It has been a pleasure to have the students back in school over the last few days. After such a long time out of school, there were bound to be a range of emotions from students, so to see so many looking so happy to be back has been wonderful. We know that many of them and many of you will have had concerns before-hand so we hope we have managed to put many of those to rest. As you are aware, this has been an unprecedented situation and the decision to bring all students back to school, though welcome, has provided all schools with a number of new problems that they have never before had to deal with.

The guidance on opening of schools has changed several times, but the staff here have worked tirelessly to put arrangements in place that will greatly reduce the opportunities for infection. As well as staggering the start and end of days to reducing the numbers of students arriving and departing at the same time and giving them different gates to arrive by, we have placed all students in Year Group bubbles and have placed each year group in to their own dedicated set of rooms. The seating in many of the rooms has had to be reduced to allow for adults to socially distance. We have also provided each year group with their own set of toilets, some of which were previously staff toilets. There has been a lot for students and their teachers to get used to in a short space of time.

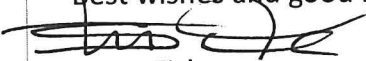
Inside school it is very difficult for students from one bubble to mix with those from another. In light of the new guidance from the government about mixing in larger groups outside of school, we would ask you to support us in advising your children of the need to not mix those bubble outside of school any more than is necessary.

At lunchtime students now have a rota for using the various areas of the canteen, with these areas being cleaned down between year groups. They also have their own areas of the school site for relaxation either before or after their lunch. The canteen has produced a range of 'Grab & Go' options to reduce using washed cutlery or plates etc. These arrangements have been carefully looked at each day and they appear to be working very well, though we will continue to monitor closely. Our stance on face masks, is that those students who wish to wear a mask in class or elsewhere on school grounds may do so, but the mask they wear in school cannot be the same mask that they have worn into school. Disposable masks brought into school must be disposed of when coming onto the school site and they must be placed in the bins supplied.

As with any great change to the normal way of doing things, there will always be some areas that will provide us with additional challenges. We are listening, to students, parents, members of staff and keeping everything that we do under constant review.

We thank those parents who have called in with their support for what we have already put in place and those who have called in for clarification on certain issues.

Best wishes and good health



Steve Fisher
Executive Headteacher