

3 September 2020

Dear Students, Parents and Carers

I do hope you have all managed to have a restful summer.

I have started this letter several times during the last few weeks, but with advice and guidance constantly changing I have had to wait until the closest point as possible to the end of the holidays to contact you, so that you have the most up to date information about the new term.

We are really looking forward to welcoming our students back into school next week. It was wonderful to have Year 10 (new Year 11) in school for some lessons last term and lovely to see students from all year groups on site to meet with their mentors in July as well.

To support the health and safety of all our students, staff and families we have implemented a range of preventative measures which I will outline in this letter.

This is a very long letter as there is so much information to share and it is important that all students, parents and carers have read it all before returning to school, so that you are clear on how we will be keeping our site as safe as possible for you.

Unlike primary students, secondary students need to study in specialist spaces and work with different students and teachers depending on their subject. To follow government guidelines on creating year group bubbles and to make the site as safe as possible, we are doing the following:

1. The school day has been restructured from a five lesson day to a day with two longer lessons and a normal hour-long lesson. To achieve this without students losing any curriculum time, we are operating a four week timetable.
2. Within each of the longest lessons there will be a break of 20 minutes each lesson. These replace the usual break and lunch time. During the first break, cold food will be available to purchase in the Dining Hall. Hot food will be available to purchase during the second break. The breaks have to be staggered so that all students can access the Dining Hall in their year group bubbles.
3. We will shortly be installing a biometric payment system and we hope this will be in place by the end of September to avoid the need to use cash.

4. There will be a staggered start and end to the school day. These were detailed in a letter from Mrs Moral, Deputy Headteacher on the last day of term and is available on the letters page of our website. The link is here:
<https://www.oakmoor.hants.sch.uk/page/?title=Letters+Home&pid=171>
5. If a student has PE lesson during the day they need to attend school in their correct PE uniform and bring their school uniform with them to change into. If PE is lesson 3, at the end of the day, students will be allowed to travel home wearing their PE uniform. This will reduce the amount of time spent in changing rooms.
6. Outside coats and blazers should be placed on the back of the student's chair when taken off; coats can also be placed in a locker.
7. As I mentioned in my video message at the end of term, the school has employed additional cleaning staff so that toilets and eating areas can be cleaned during the school day. The school will continue to be cleaned every evening.
8. I also mentioned in the video message that around the school there are additional outdoor hand sanitiser dispensers for students to use. Students should wash their hands regularly and at the very least, on arrival at school, before and after eating and after using the toilet. In every classroom, there will be spray and paper towels for students to wipe down their desk and chair at the end of each lesson. There will also be hand sanitiser to use when arriving and leaving classrooms.
9. Students must not share equipment. Please refer to the full equipment list sent in the letter from Mrs Moral at the end of the summer term. The link is in point 4.
10. Students must be vigilant to managing coughs or sneezes (catch it, bin it, kill it). All students and staff are required to bring a mask to school.

On Wednesday, 26 August, the government announced their decision that children in secondary education in certain areas of the country should wear a mask in communal areas such as corridors. Furthermore, all headteachers have the discretion to require students and staff to wear face coverings in communal spaces.

Like many schools, we require that students and staff do wear a face covering when moving around the school in communal areas such as corridors, toilets and the Dining Hall. We will explain to students how to keep their masks clean, when to use them and how to store them. Please, as parents and carers, discuss this too.

We ask parents to ensure children have washable masks with a minimum of three layers of protection and that these are washed daily or a disposable mask. Government guidance states that face coverings are not required in classrooms. However, we will consider visors (not masks) for lessons and would only consider this to be appropriate following a risk assessment identifying this need. If you believe that this applies to you/your child, please contact the pastoral office to arrange a formal risk assessment. If a student/parent wishes to request exemption from wearing a mask for medical reasons they should also contact the pastoral office.

We hope to be able to offer a range of extra-curricular activities for students but some of these will be limited by regulations and timings. We will set out for students, parents and

carers what we are able to offer along with the specific rules that would apply to each of them in the next couple of weeks. Peripatetic music lessons are not taking place at the start of term and this will be reviewed towards the end of September.

All our measures will be continually reviewed and I will update you should any measures be amended.

Thank you so much for your continued support. To date our actions and measures have ensured that all students and staff have remained as safe as possible and it is imperative that we continue to be vigilant to protect students and staff while they are on the Oakmoor site so that we protect ourselves, our families and the wider community.

Yours sincerely

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'P. Hemmings', written in a cursive style.

Mr P. Hemmings
Headteacher