

Dear Parents/Carers,

As promised, last week, I am writing to you today to re-confirm the dates of opening and provide a 'pack' of information for parents and students which explains the finer points of our return to school next week. The attached letter explains how we have prepared for welcoming back our students under three distinct headings: Student Well-being, Health and Attendance; Teaching and Learning; and Return to School: The School Day. Please open the PDF document attached to view the information.

Below is a brief overview of key points, but please ensure you have also read the attached information prior to full school opening, next Wednesday 9 September 2020.

### **Start Dates**

As a school we are looking forward to welcoming our 'new' Rossett students in Years 7 and 12 on Tuesday the 8 September, and **all other year groups (Years 8, 9, 10, 11 and 13) on Wednesday 9 September**. Monday 7 September is a Staff Training Day and the school will be closed to students.

### **Bus Services**

We have now had confirmation that all bus routes will be operational from September 2020. All companies, whether provided by North Yorkshire, TransDev or Tetleys are operating a policy of mask-wearing for all students, for all journeys. Each provider has details on their specific website and you can find this information here (Tetley's information has gone directly to parents):

<https://www.transdevbus.co.uk/harrogate/back-school-2020-harrogate>

<https://www.northyorks.gov.uk/transport-and-highways-during-coronavirus-covid-19>

<https://www.northyorks.gov.uk/bus-timetables>

### **Cleaning and Preparation**

The school has undergone enhanced cleaning during the holiday period under the close direction of our Health and Safety Officer. The school has been sub-divided into Year 'Schools' so that each year group has a 'bubble' of classrooms, toilets, resources, indoor and outdoor social areas that are only for their use. Hand sanitiser stations and hand-washing facilities are available in the school generally, and specifically in each 'bubble' area. Contracted and trained cleaners will circulate during the day, cleaning communal areas, frequently-touched surfaces and practical rooms according to a rota.

Classrooms and shared areas have been organised following the guidelines from the Government, DfE and Public Health England. All rules and routines will be introduced to students through tutor sessions on their first days in school, before learning begins.

### **Face Coverings**

The school leadership team have been closely monitoring the advice and evidence relating to the wearing of face coverings in secondary school settings. We are recommending face coverings for students and staff in areas of the school where social distancing is difficult. This means that students and staff can wear face coverings if they wish during lesson transitions and in social spaces. Staff will have their own clear visors to wear on duty in school.

Students will be taught how to remove and store their face-coverings or masks safely in briefings at the beginning of term.

The expectation is that face-coverings will be removed and safely stored by students before a lesson starts. Confirmation of our rules and regulations for student behaviour is summarised in the attached information.

### **Uniform and Equipment**

As in our previous communications, I would remind parents that our standard uniform expectations apply. In addition, we are asking that parents purchase pocket-sized hand sanitisers for students to carry with them, to allow them to cleanse their hands frequently on their journeys to and from school and during the school day, if they wish. We ask that all students have access to their own mask for travel to and from school and for use in school, as recommended.

Again, as in our previous letter, we emphasise that all students need to provide their own basic equipment to avoid the need to share or borrow pens, pencils, etc. Many students already bring water bottles to school; we would encourage this practice for all students as the communal water fountains have been decommissioned at this time.

### **Food and Refreshments**

Hot and cold food will be available at breaktime and lunchtime for students to purchase.

We have changed our 'thumbprint' system for payment at the school canteen to a system where students receive a unique code that can be given verbally to the till operator. Screens and other safety measures are in place in the lunch halls, and there are individual dining halls and times for each year group to preserve the 'bubble' separation of students. In the present circumstances parents are asked to credit their SCOPAY accounts online.

Additional information on Free School Meals can be found in the attached letter.

### **Appointments at School**

All visits to school from parents, visitors, contractors and outside agencies are by appointment only. We respectfully ask that parents observe this protocol and ring the school to make an appointment, if they wish to visit a member of staff or to attend a meeting.

We realise that parents and students may still have questions. In the attached letter we provide links to key national websites; all our documents have been updated this week to include the latest advice on face coverings, travel and the use of communal areas. An updated Risk Assessment and a FAQ (Frequently Asked Questions) sheet for students will be available on the school website this week, prior to the full return to school on Wednesday 9 September.

Yours sincerely

H Woodcock  
Headteacher