

August 2020

Dear Parents/Carers

Re: September Arrangements

I hope this letter finds you all well. As I mentioned in my end of term letter, you will be aware that guidance is now out for schools to open to all students in September.

We are delighted to be able to welcome back all of our students and have been busy planning the details of how school will run smoothly and safely in September. All students will be back to school full time and will follow the full curriculum starting on the following dates:

Wednesday September 2nd – Year 7 only (Normal Wednesday - 1.35pm finish)

Thursday September 3rd – Year 7, 8 and 9 normal school day

Friday September 4th – Year 7, 8 and 9 - normal school day

The students will remain in the 'bubble' of their year group. They will have dedicated areas during social times and students will use different dining areas from other year groups. Furthermore, each year group will have a different entry point to the school site:

Year 7: Sixth form entrance - located at the far side of the building

Year 8: Student entrance – located in the middle of the building

Year 9: PE entrance – located near the Sports Hall

Some other changes will have been introduced to enable the smooth flow of students around the school during lesson changeovers, including one way systems. Additional hand washing facilities have been arranged in school. There will also be a strict classroom entry routine which will require students to sanitise their hands at the start of every lesson. An exit routine will also see students safely back onto the corridor in an orderly way. Students are expected to wear face coverings on corridors and in communal areas. Student should bring their own face covering to school to prepare for this purpose. We have arranged for a much increased cleaning regime to operate in school before, during and after the school day.

Students will be required to attend school in full school uniform. The normal behaviour policy will obviously still apply, as will additional rules regarding safety and social distancing. We will be unable to routinely lend out any basic equipment, so it is more important than ever for students to bring with them all of the equipment that they will require for the school day.

We encourage all students to walk or cycle to and from school whenever possible. Any student travelling on public transport will need a face covering.

We recognise that COVID 19 has affected families in different ways. If you have any specific concerns and you would like us to know so we can support your child, please get in touch. This can be via a phone call in September or an email when convenient. Thank you to those parents who have already done so. We will not discuss this with your child unless this is your/their wish and we will not share any information beyond the people you specify (generally Form Tutors and Head of Year).

Support can be put in place when needed, both from key staff including our Pastoral leads/School Counsellor in school or people outside of school that we can refer to. Some tutor time activities and PSHE lessons will address aspects of COVID-19 when we look at Resilience and Mental Wellbeing when back in school.

I am sure you will understand that we will be limiting visitors to the school site, parents/carers can still drop off in the usual way but we ask that you remain in your vehicles. Parents/Carers will only be allowed on the school site by appointment.

You will most likely be aware of the disproportionate effect of COVID-19 on individuals of a BAME background - Evidence from the Office for National Statistics shows a greater impact of COVID-19 on Black communities, if you have any specific concerns please contact us to discuss in September.

Current guidance states that students who have been identified as extremely clinically vulnerable can attend school from September.

In order to keep our school community safe, we ask that if someone in your household shows symptoms of COVID-19 then please inform us at the earliest opportunity via Enquiries@laurusryecroft.org.uk

Please do not send your child into school if anyone in your household is showing signs of COVID-19.

Full and up to date guidance on what to do if someone in the household displays symptoms of COVID-19 is available at <https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/covid-19-stay-at-home-guidance>

We know that there is a possibility that government guidance may change between now and September and we will ensure that we communicate any updates as and when they occur.

Finally, I would like to take the opportunity to thank you again for all your support throughout this difficult period. Take care and we look forward to welcoming back all of our students in September.

Yours sincerely



Martin Vevers
Head of School