

Ref: SA/LH

15th July 2020



Oakfield
HIGH SCHOOL & COLLEGE

Dear Parent/Carer,

We are looking forward to welcoming our learners back in the safest possible way. The current advice, however, is that all learners are expected back in school full-time from the start of term and we are certainly looking forward to welcoming them after such a long closure.

The start of term for all year groups is Thursday 3rd September, as planned in the original school calendar. Learners should return in full uniform and more information will follow in September about what will happen when learners have PE.

I am aware that some of you will be anxious about sending your children back to school and want to reassure you that our first priority is the safety of learners, parents and staff. I can confirm, however, that the safety measures we intend to take are the creation of year/key stage group "bubbles", with year/keystage groups separated as much as possible to reduce the number of potential contacts that your child will have on any one day. Anyone who is with symptoms or who have someone in their household who has symptoms should not attend school and ring the school office to report the absence. We will ensure that hands are washed frequently and thoroughly. We will promote good respiratory hygiene by encouraging the 'catch it, bin it, kill it' approach.

Latest government guidance: <https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/what-parents-and-carers-need-to-know-about-early-years-providers-schools-and-colleges-during-the-coronavirus-covid-19-outbreak/what-parents-and-carers-need-to-know-about-early-years-providers-schools-and-colleges-in-the-autumn-term>

How will the bubbles work?

Year 7, 8 and 9 will be year group bubbles and with key stage 4 and key stage 5 as key stage bubbles. The school will be zoned, with learners and teachers based in one of the bubble zones. Teaching staff will move around the classes in one bubble and will always teach in that bubble. Teaching assistants will be with the classes in the classroom throughout the day as usual providing the consistent face for the young people. There will be some changes to the classroom environments to promote safe meaningful teaching and learning. Throughout school and college there will be signage and symbols to remind the learners what is expected and how to keep everyone safe.

Getting to and from school.

The day will have a slightly staggered start and finish to the school day to ensure safe entrance and exit to the buildings. Each bubble will get off and back on transport at the same time. Transport is working on their system and protocols for September and will notify you when they have further information about pick-ups and drop-offs. Any independent travellers will need to arrive and leave at the same time as their bubble. If parents/carers are dropping off learners and picking them up, please let us know and we will give you a time and drop off point.

Learners in school should not bring mobile phones or electronic devices to school. Learners in college and independent travellers can continue to bring these as long as they remain turned off and in bags during the school day.

What is happening with breaks and lunches?

Each bubble will have a staggered break and lunch. At the start of term toast and drinks will be available at break. Unfortunately due to the timings of break we will not be able to offer breakfast club in September. Lunches will be a range of sandwich options with drinks and puddings included from the school kitchen or learners may bring something from home. This will be reviewed after the first few weeks to see if our kitchen staff are able to offer any alternatives.

What will happen during the day?

As learners have been away from school for some time, at first the curriculum will focus on wellbeing, new routines and getting to know each other again. Our new year 7 learners will complete a transition project as part of this. Oakfield has developed a four step reengagement plan. The full presentation is available on the school website.

Step One: Routine and Safety

Step Two: Relationships and Belonging

Step Three: Transparent Curriculum and Self Esteem

Step Four: Metacognition and Self-actualization

We really appreciate your patience and understanding during this time. As you will realise all of this may be subject to change depending on the latest guidance, so please keep an eye out for communications via social media and text during the summer. We will be sending a letter to our learners in the next couple of days and would appreciate you going through this with them.

This has been an unusual summer term and I really hope that you are able to enjoy the summer holidays. I am looking forward to our school being filled with our young people once again.

Best wishes,

S. Allen

Mrs S Allen
Head of School