



28th August 2020

Dear Parents, Carers and Students,

Re: September Re-opening - Year 11

Further to our letter last week and our letter at the end of term we are now writing to you regarding the finer details of the start of term for your year group. We are very much looking forward to getting started and the resumption of school for all our young people. We are, however, working hard to ensure that we have in place as many safety measures as possible to ensure we are all safe. We are doing everything possible to get back to learning whilst minimising the risk of an outbreak in school and having to return to remote learning - although we will be ready for that too.

Our students have a big role to play in all of this, by following all of the rules and routines that we have put in place to ensure the safety of all concerned - including the communities in which we all live. It is good that Bedford is now off the Government's 'watch-list', but it is our, and the Local Authority's view that we still need to proceed with caution.

Student safety briefing

So to that end all year groups will have a two hour safety briefing on either Monday 7th or Tuesday 8th September with their Tutor group.

As your child is in year 11, they must come into school on Tuesday 8th September at 8.15am and leave at 10.00am. The induction session will comprise of activities relating to how things will work when we are all back in school together and individual timetables will be issued at this stage. On arrival they should go straight to their tutor room - see chart below. Staff members will be on hand to help support your child in making their way to the right classroom.

Year 11		
Head of Year: Mrs A Speight		
Assistant Head of Year: Ms S Ghera		
Last Year's Tutor	New Tutor	Base
GJ	GJ	H8
ANH	JP/ANH	T20
CMF	CFM	R2
GT	GT	T1
HA/IH	JPM	S1
MDE	MDE	T2
CMP	CMP	H18
HW	HW/LR	R8
CAM	CAM	R4

They will then start school on Wednesday 9th September - see below staggered timings for year 11.

NEW TIMINGS OF THE SCHOOL DAY - SEPTEMBER 2020

Monday, Wednesday, Thursday, Friday				Tuesday			
	Time	Mins	Break/ Transition		Time	Mins	Break/ Transition
Tutor	8.00 - 8.20	20		Staff training	7.45 - 8.30	45	
Transition			5	ELS	8.50 - 9.20	30	
Period 1	8.25 - 9.25	60		Transition			10
Transition			5	Period 2	9.30 - 10.30	60	
Period 2	9.30 - 10.30	60		Transition			10
Transition			10	Period 3	10.40 - 11.40	60	
Period 3	10.40 - 11.40	60		Break			10
Break			10	Period 4	11.50 - 12.50	60	
Period 4	11.50 - 12.50	60		Lunch	12.50 - 13.30		40
Lunch	12.50 - 13.30		40	Period 5	13.30 - 14.30	60	
Period 5	13.30 - 14.30	60		Leave	14.30		
Leave	14.30						

The induction session will include details about measures that will be in place from September that they will need to be aware of and adhere to, such as:

- Regular hand cleansing and sanitising.
- Students cleaning desks in classrooms after use.
- Doors and windows remaining open to ensure ventilation and minimise touching of handles and surfaces.
- Teachers and TAs will wear visors and/or masks where two metre social distancing cannot take place.
- There is a clear one way system in place for students and staff to follow.
- At break and social times the students will need to stay in their year groups and in allocated 'zoned' areas of the school. Marquees will be in place for wet weather for each year group. Students will be expected to remain outside as much as possible.
- Students will need to bring lunch with them initially, although we will prepare and deliver packed lunches for students eligible for free school meals.
- There will be staggered starts at the start of the day, lunchtime and at the end of the day and a tutorial at the beginning of the day for all students.
- Parents and carers are requested not to come to the school to drop their child off, unless by car. When dropping students off parents and carers should stay in the car at all times.

Face coverings

The issue of students wearing masks has been in the news recently and we now have the discretion to implement what we think is best given our local context, so to that end we are saying that masks should be worn in corridors moving from lesson to lesson and students need to wear them into lessons, where they can remove them if they wish, but must put them on when working with a TA or teacher where a two metre distance cannot be achieved. Students will need a bag in which to store their face coverings. This may change in light of updated guidance if it proves problematic or safety is compromised in any way.

We would like to remind you of a few key areas of our letter to you at the end of term:

The School Day

There will be some slightly staggered starts to the school day, to allow students time to sanitise their hands on arrival, however, this will be minimal in order to limit the disruption to families. Students need to arrive promptly at their designated time and leave site swiftly at the end of the school day. For the first half term, we do not intend initially to offer after school activities until fuller guidance is in place. We will open extra-curricular support fully as quickly as we can, following government guidance and ensuring the safety of students and staff.

Travel to school

We encourage all students to walk or cycle to school if at all possible. This is by far the healthiest travel option. Should students need to travel by public transport they will need to follow the [government guidelines](#) about wearing face coverings. We ask that if a parent or carer is bringing their child to school they remain in their cars and if students are walking they must not meet and arrive in friendship groups. Both gates (north and south) will be opened for students to get on and off site within a set period of time.

Attendance

Attendance is compulsory in September, as the government expects all students to attend school. The usual rules will apply, meaning we will be recording attendance and following up on any absences. If your child has been staying at home due to the current shielding guidance, the government 'paused' this guidance on 1st August. That means students should be able to come back to school. However, if you have received clinical or public health advice that your children should still remain at home, please let us know and continue to follow that guidance. You should contact us by emailing the school at enquiries@biddenham.beds.sch.uk or call 01234 342521. We will be offering remote education to these students.

Uniform

Students need to be in full school uniform from September. Details are available on the school website and a link can be found [here](#). Our basic school uniform items are plain black full length trousers, plain black skirt, plain white shirt/blouse, black or navy blue shalwar kamiz/jalbaab and black shoes, can be purchased relatively cheaply from any high street or supermarket clothes retailer; however, if you are experiencing any difficulty, please contact enquiries@biddenham.beds.sch.uk or call 01234 342521 and we will assist where we can. The government guidance suggests that uniform does not need to be washed daily, however we would like to encourage students, parents and carers to ensure that uniform is cleaned as regularly as possible.

However, to avoid compromising social distancing in changing rooms, if students have PE or Dance on their timetable then on those days they should attend in their PE kit. It is advisable to have more than one set of PE kit if possible, and/or wash it regularly. Blazers or coats can be worn over the top, but there should not be any hoodies or other non-uniform tops worn.

Equipment

In order to prepare for the new term the following is a list of suggested equipment:

- A school bag - ideally a rucksack.
- Pencil case including pens, colours, pencils, ruler and highlighters.
- Calculator and geometry set.
- Chromebook - charged and in the protective case.
- Earbuds/phones - to be able to hear sound on chromebooks.
- Face coverings(s) and bag for storage.

Additionally, for health and safety reasons:

- Water bottle - filled, to reduce the need for using water fountains.
- Winter coat (waterproof with a hood) - breaks and lunches will predominantly be outside and windows will remain open in classrooms.
- Umbrella - in case of wet weather.
- Antibacterial wipes/gels and a pack of tissues - whilst we are providing antibacterial gels at every building entrance, we strongly recommend students have their own for personal use to ensure they stay safe in school.

Catering

Access to our catering facilities will be limited initially in the interest of health and safety. Students should bring a packed lunch (please avoid food with nuts and fizzy drinks) to school and enough water for the school day as access to water fountains will be limited. Students eligible for free school meals will be provided with a packed lunch at school. There will not be any opportunity to buy food in school initially.

Induction processes will never have been more important for us both academically and socially, than this year. The loss of learning and length out of education is greater for this generation of young people, as they transition to their next phase of education. This will need to be accounted for academically to ensure courses start from where the students are and we enable the students to recover learning successfully. Socially, all our students will benefit from being back with friends, new and old, and the structure and stability the school day, week and year will bring and we are very keen to get back to school.

If you have any queries please do not hesitate to contact us.

Warm regards,



Mr D Bailey
Principal



Ms E Grylls
Head of School