

July 2020

Dear Parents/Carers

Re: September arrangements

I hope my 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. The students will largely remain in the 'bubble' of their year group. They will have dedicated areas during social times and students will also use different dining areas from the students in other year groups. Due to a lack of time and space at break time, we will only be able to offer limited use of the canteen areas so we intend to operate a rota system where some year groups will have access before school and others will have access at break time. The end of the school day will be slightly staggered to allow students to leave safely. Some other changes will be 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. We have arranged for a much-increased cleaning regime to operate in school before, during and after the end of 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. Students should also bring a full bottle of drinking water to school every day.

We are still awaiting confirmation of the school bus services for September. TfGM are currently working with our requests. The school bus timings and routes will be posted on our website when we have the information. Face coverings will need to be worn by students on public transport and dedicated school buses. These will need to be removed before the students enter school. Students will not be permitted to wear face coverings in school.

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/carers 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, Head of Year and Student Support team).

Support can be put in place when needed, both from key staff including our Pastoral leads/School Counsellor in school or people outside of HGHS that we can refer to. Some form time activities and PHSE 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 be allowed on to the school site by appointment only.

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. However, if you have any specific concerns, please contact us to discuss this in September.

In order to keep our school community safe, we ask that if someone in your household shows symptoms of Covid-19, please inform us at the earliest opportunity via email at enquiries@hazelgrovehigh.co.uk. Please do not send your child into school if they are showing signs of COVID-19. Full and up to date guidance on what to do if someone in the household displays symptoms of coronavirus 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 to plans as and when they occur.

Finally, I would like to take the opportunity to thank you again for all of your support throughout this difficult period and we look forward to welcoming back all of our students on Thursday 3rd September.

Take care and have a great summer break.



Martin Stewart
Head of School