

Friday 4th September

Dear Parent/Carer

RE: COVID-19 PHASED RETURN TO SECONDARY SCHOOLS

I hope you and your family are safe and well. It has been a strange summer, however, I hope you were all able to enjoy some of the glorious weather and had the opportunity for some quality family time together.

As we prepare for the new academic year we continue to work closely with our Trust (Thinking Schools Academy Trust) and to follow the Government advice to ensure we give the safest welcome for our students.

The Government's guidance for opening to all year groups from September is the cornerstone to our plans and we have been working around the clock to reflect this and ensure a safe welcome back for all children in the new academic year.

We are now in a position to be able to share a summary of the principles for opening to all children in September.

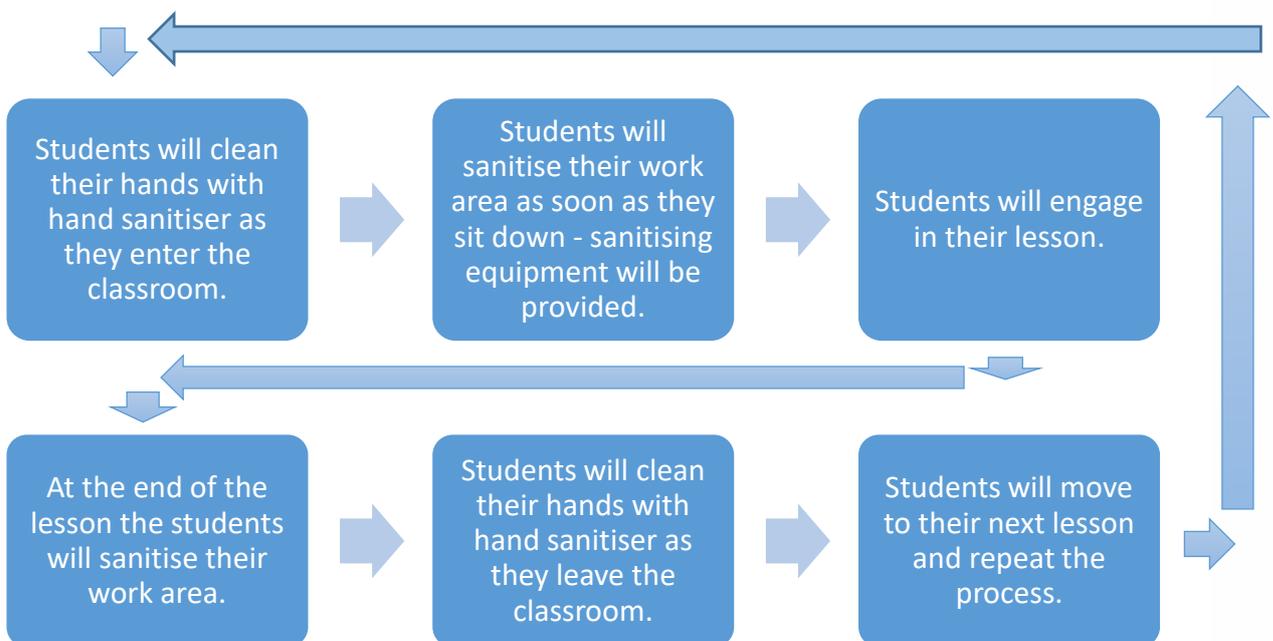


In addition to this letter, please see our Covid 19 page on our website <https://www.goodwinacademy.org.uk/our-school/covid-19-communication/> which will help you understand how the return to school based learning will happen and answer any questions you may have.

We will be continuing to work to our mission of Child First = Child Safe = Adult Safe. This has guided our planning since lockdown and we are pleased with how well it translated to everyone in our school community.

How we achieve 'Child Safe'

The Year Group Bubble will be the heart of our strategy to keep everyone safe. Each student will be part of a consistent bubble made up of their year group with NO mixing between these bubbles in the classroom. To help manage the Year Group Bubbles, we are introducing additional measures allowing students to move between lessons, from safe space to safe space throughout the day within their bubbles – this will be achieved through the new method of 'Clean, Use, Clean':



Teachers will be, where appropriate, situated as they would have been pre-Covid-19, in a base classroom with limited movement between classes during the school day. The reason we have taken this approach is to enable us to safely deliver as much of the curriculum as possible to our students, including the use of specialist facilities such as, Science labs and Art rooms.

I have outlined below the top five considerations and principles that will be in operation in time for all of our students returning.

1. MANAGING SICKNESS AND REPORTING

Please remember that you must not send your child to school if they are unwell or displaying any symptoms of Covid-19, these are:

- New continuous cough
- High temperature
- Loss of, or change in, normal sense of taste or smell (anosmia)

We are going beyond the Government advice regarding Track & Trace to ensure the highest safety for our community. Therefore, any member of our school community that is displaying symptoms must self-isolate and be tested.

In the event of a positive test result, we will inform Public Health England (PHE) and require all students identified as being within prolonged close proximity to the infected person to isolate for 14 days.



2. ARRANGEMENTS FOR THE START OF TERM

We will provide a full time education provision for all children five days a week. The Government expect all children to return in September and we have planned carefully to ensure that we are able to welcome them all back safely.

To ensure students and staff are fully informed of the new safety procedures in place, the start of term will be delayed until Thursday 10th September. All students will be expected to attend a compulsory health and safety briefing in their Year Group Bubble wearing full school uniform on the following dates and times, each session is expected to last 90 minutes and students must report to the Astroturf.

| Tuesday 8 th September | | Wednesday 9 th September | |
|-----------------------------------|------------|-------------------------------------|---------|
| 9:00am | Year 7 | 9:00am | Year 8 |
| 11:00am | Year 11 | 11:00am | Year 9 |
| 1:00pm | Year 12/13 | 1:00pm | Year 10 |



3. ARRANGEMENTS FOR THE SCHOOL DAY LESSONS

To reduce movement of students around the school we will be operating a three-lesson school day, with lessons now lasting 100 minutes.

ARRIVAL/DEPARTURE

To support social distancing, students can only enter the school site from 8.15am onwards and not before. Students **MUST** go directly to their period 1 classroom using the nearest entrance, where their period 1 teacher will be available to supervise them until school starts at 8.30am. Registration and period 1 will take place in this classroom with break at 10.30am.

VISITORS/PARENT MEETINGS: Unfortunately, parents will only be able to meet face to face with staff in exceptional circumstances. All other meetings will be held remotely, to book a meeting with the relevant member of staff please complete an appointment form that can be found on the school website.

BREAK/LUNCHTIMES: Break and lunchtimes will be slightly offset and arranged so that the Year Group Bubbles do not mix. Please provide your child with water in a labelled bottle that is washed and refilled every night. We will be offering a hot meal option as usual, alternatively please provide your child with a healthy packed lunch.

There will be a **NO CASH** system in place on site, so use of the online payments system is essential to top-up student accounts. **NOTE:** For Y7 students who may not have been enrolled on the system as yet, an overdraft facility will be enabled. Please contact the school for further information.

LOCKERS: To minimise the spread of germs, lockers will be out of bounds and students will need to take their belongings between lessons. Therefore, students will need to have a large enough bag to carry all equipment including books and textbooks that are given by staff.

LARGE GATHERINGS: There will be no whole school assemblies taking place throughout the Autumn Term to ensure safety. All assemblies will be shared remotely via Teams or pre-recorded.

PE and PERFORMING ARTS: All students must wear their Goodwin Academy PE uniform on the days they have PE. For Performing Arts, this only applies to students in Key Stage 4.

FACE COVERINGS: The use of face coverings will be optional anywhere on school site, if students wish to wear them.

What face covering is permitted?

- Students are only permitted to wear a plain single colour “face covering” which covers the mouth and nose held in place by straps around the ears or behind the head. See example below:



- Patterned or adorned “face covering” are NOT permitted nor are face coverings with images or logos.



- No other type of face covering (e.g. scarf or bandana) is permitted.

What will happen if a student wears a face covering that is not permitted?

- They will be required to remove the face covering.
- They will be required to hand the face covering in to Wellbeing staff for the rest of the day.
- They will be able to pick the face covering up at the end of the school day.
- Students who repeatedly are found to be wearing non-permitted face coverings in school will be subject to the school’s behaviour policy for failure to comply with instructions.

Looking after the face covering:

- Students are expected to look after their own face covering and follow government guidance on wearing their face covering.
- Whenever a student takes off their face covering it must be safely put away or disposed of in a lidded bin.



4. SCHOOL RULES

We expect our students to return in full school uniform.

Wearing the correct uniform is important to our identity and school community. We recognise the importance of establishing our school as a family of learners and our uniform is integral to this.

All normal school rules will apply, as well as additional expectations around behaviour in corridors and the maintenance of social distancing – these are shown on additional signage throughout the school. If students choose to ignore these expectations then the school will apply the normal range of sanctions.

STATIONERY: Students must bring in their own stationery (as per Uniform Code) in a plastic based pencil case. Stationary should include: black or blue ballpoint pen, pencil, rubber, ruler and scientific calculator.



5. SAFETY AND CLEANING

Ensuring that our school is kept clean is a key part of our plan.

This means regular cleaning of all shared spaces including classrooms, corridors, IT suites and toilets. We will put in place a “cleaning habit routine” at the start and end of every lesson, in every classroom that is being used.

Hand sanitiser will be the principle means of securing hand hygiene and will be easily accessible across school grounds.

As a result of these measures we believe we will be able to provide a safe learning environment for your children and we look forward to welcoming them all back in September.



FINAL NOTE...

I would like to take this opportunity to thank our students, parents/carers, staff and governors for all their support over the last term, and indeed, since the pandemic impacted on our usual ways of teaching and learning.

Together we have overcome some great challenges and we are proud of what we have achieved. Should there be any further changes to the Government guidance before we return, or during the new academic year we will respond as fast, and as best we can.

However, in the meantime, I would like to thank you again and I hope you have found this update useful. Further information will be published on the school site as and when it occurs.

Yours faithfully

Mr S Smith
Principal