



THE ECCLESBOURNE SCHOOL

'Learning Together For The Future'

Head Teacher
James McNamara BA(Hons); NPQH

Wirksworth Road, Duffield, Belper: DE56 4GS
Tel: (01332) 840645 Fax: (01332) 841871
Web: www.ecclesbourne.org.uk
email: info@ecclesbourne.derbyshire.sch.uk



Thursday 27th August 2020

Full School Re-Opening - Arrangements

Dear Parents and Carers,

We are writing to remind you about arrangements for school to re-open to all students from Thursday 3rd September. The arrangements for the safe management of re-opening were first shared with you in July. The safety of students and staff remains our priority and our plans for full school re-opening proceed from this.

Getting to and from school

Students should avoid public transport, if at all possible. The local authority will be operating a bus service on all routes from September. Details of these bus services and the measures being taken to manage the risk of COVID-19 are appended to this letter. If your child will be using the bus service please take the time to read the information. A face mask is compulsory on buses and so we are asking that parents provide their children with two washable face masks to allow for overnight cleaning. There is ample cycle storage space in school for students wishing to cycle to school. Any student who wishes to cycle to school must wear a safety helmet. Parents dropping off or picking up children at school by car will be able to use a designated and supervised area in the entrance turning circle. We ask that parents do not leave their cars or stay to talk to other parents. It is important that students do not gather in groups on the way to and from school but instead make their way directly. Local businesses in the neighbourhood of the school are out of bounds.

Year Group 'Bubbles'

In line with government's guidance, the school plan for re-opening is based on the following key principles: a requirement that people who are ill stay at home; robust hand and respiratory hygiene; enhanced cleaning arrangements; active engagement with NHS Test and Trace and reducing contacts between those in school wherever possible to minimise potential for infection. This approach has been described by the government as maintaining pupil 'bubbles' which must be kept separate as far as practically possible.

In order to achieve this, we have timetabled year group 'bubbles' in six separate areas of the school. Years 7, 8 and 9 will each have their own year group base together with a designated playground to use at break and lunchtime. They will not need to move around school and will have their own form and classroom. When accessing specialist teaching such as PE lessons their movement will be supervised. Years 10 and 11 will be based in the Maths and English Blocks respectively and will also have supervised access to specialist classrooms for options subjects. The VI Form will be based in B/C Block, with access to F Block and the Sixth Form Centre. On the first day of term Year 7 students will be directed to the Sports Hall and all other students will be directed to their form room for induction.

All teaching spaces and entry points are well equipped with hand sanitiser dispensers and students will be reminded to use them regularly. Toilet queuing will be kept to a minimum and supervised. Room lay-out with forward facing desks, floor marking, signage and supervision will reinforce safe spacing. Once in school,

students will be based in one of our designated year group zones and teachers will move to students. Arrangements are in place for enhanced cleaning of all teaching spaces.

The school day and curriculum

From September we will operate a staggered start and end of day. Form tutors will be available in form rooms from 8.40 each day. Students arriving by school bus will be escorted from the bus bay to their year group base. For students who do not use the school buses the staggered start times are as follows: VI Form should arrive at school for 8.40, Year 10 and 11 for 8.50 and Years 7-9 for 9.00. At the end of the day, VI Form will leave at 3.30, Year 10 and 11 at 3.35 and Years 7, 8 and 9 at 3.40. Students who use the school bus service will be provided with a year group waiting area to enable the safe organisation of children on to the buses. Organising the school site into year group mini-schools means that time lost due to movement will be kept to a minimum. We will be able to maximise lesson time and offer a full, broad and balanced curriculum and we do not propose to shorten break or lunchtime. **During the first week of school students will need to bring a packed lunch.** From Monday, 7th September students may bring a packed lunch to school or pre-order one from our on-site caterers using our new online portal. Pre-ordered lunches will be delivered to the year group base so there will be no need for queuing or lunch rotas. **The free school meal system operated through the summer will continue until the end of September.** Details of how to use the online ordering system will follow next week. Pre-ordered lunches will be delivered to the year group base so there will be no need for queuing or lunch rotas. Details of how to use the online ordering system will follow next week. While the current restrictions continue we will not be able to offer the usual range of extra-curricular opportunities and trips. Rest assured that we will work hard to reintroduce them when it is safe to do so.

Uniform and equipment

We expect students to be in full school uniform. Information about our uniform and equipment list, including the VI Form, has been issued and is available on the school website. If you have any specific enquiries regarding uniform, please contact Mrs Owen-Moore (Head of Lower School) or Mr Carnwell (Head of Sixth Form).

Sharing of equipment requires careful management by subject staff and so, to keep this to a minimum, it is important that students come to school fully equipped. Students should stock their pencil case with pens, pencils, eraser, ruler, protractor, compass, glue stick, scientific calculator, pocket dictionary and highlighters.

Face masks are not required in classrooms but students may wear one in school if they choose to do so and are recommended to wear one during movement around school between lessons. Students using buses must wear a face mask when travelling to and from school. For this reason, it is expected that parents provide students with two washable face masks. When removing face coverings students must wash their hands immediately beforehand and dispose of temporary face coverings in a covered bin or place reusable face coverings in a sealable plastic bag, and then wash their hands again. Students will be given training on how to use face masks correctly.

Behaviour

As we prepare to return and open the school to all students, it is important that student behaviour and compliance with health and safety rules is excellent. Our behaviour and discipline policy sets out our expected standards. All students returning to school will have a health and safety induction and our

procedures for operating safely will be clearly explained. Failure to abide by the rules and guidance on safety and social distancing will be considered a serious breach of the behaviour policy.

What to do if you are unwell/Quarantined

Students, parents, carers or visitors, must not come to school if they are displaying any symptoms of coronavirus. Details of the procedures to follow can be found here:

<https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/covid-19-stay-at-home-guidance>. If a student at school presents with symptoms, then they will be looked after in isolation and parents and carers contacted to collect them. Students who have recently returned from a country included in the government's quarantine regulations should not attend school until their period of quarantine is complete.

We would like to take this opportunity to thank everyone in the Ecclesbourne community for your help and support over the past several months. We are very much looking forward to welcoming students back to school. If you have any questions, please do not hesitate to contact us by telephone or email.

Yours sincerely



James McNamara

Head Teacher



Robert Nicoll

Deputy Head Teacher