



15th July 2020

September 2020 Reopening

Dear Parents and Carers,

I am writing to share the reopening plan for September.

Firstly, thank you for your continued understanding and support during this difficult time. It has been great welcoming year 10 and 12 back into school over the past few weeks as they prepare for their final examinations in just under a year's time. The majority of students, in year 7-9 who remain learning from home, have on the whole been working exceptionally hard to ensure they do not fall behind. So, thank you for helping and supporting them in addition to all the other pressures you are dealing with at the moment.

From September all students will attend school for a full timetable from 8:40-15:00 Monday to Friday. This will be the law and no longer a choice. As you know, we have already partially reopened for year 10 and 12 over the past month with students and staff remaining safe due to both the measures put in place and the common sense approach of everyone on site. We are very fortunate to have ample outdoor and circulation space designed for 1800 students with only 1200 currently on roll. The classrooms are significantly larger than an average secondary school by up to 35m².

To open safely in September we will group students together in year groups during lessons and break times and wherever possible avoid contact between these year groups. Where grouping is not possible social distancing will apply as in all public spaces at present. We have arranged classrooms with forward facing desks and ensure staff maintain distance from pupils and other staff as much as possible. We will instil a culture where hands will be cleaned thoroughly using soap and running water or hand sanitiser, ensuring there are ample hand cleansing stations in the building. We will ensure good respiratory hygiene by promoting the 'catch it, bin it, kill it' approach. We have introduced enhanced cleaning, especially the cleaning of frequently touched surfaces. Finally, doors and windows will remain open to ensure good air circulation. Further details of our procedures will be made available on the school website.

If I could please ask that you continue to support us by ensuring your child does the following:

1. Walk or cycle to school, **the drop-off zone at school has been removed** to widen the pathways for walking and public transport should be avoided.
2. Dress in full uniform, bring all of their equipment to school and their PE kit re: timetable.

3. Bring a full water bottle and healthy snack for their break.
4. Follows government instructions regarding social distancing when travelling to and from school.
5. If any coronavirus symptoms present, stay at home and get tested as soon as possible, informing the school immediately and updating us continually.

As parents and carers can I please ask you not to come to the school unless invited for an appointment. Please use email, the website portal or the telephone to contact the school in the first instance and arrange an appointment when necessary.

The school canteen will be open and students will be allocated a food service time and place by year group during registration. I suggest students bring a healthy snack as they will only access the canteen food at one sitting, the second sitting is not until 13:30. The water fountains are not in use.

The opening days for year groups have been slightly adjusted, so please note start days:

Year 7, 11 and 13: Wednesday 2nd September

Year 8-10: Friday 4th September

Year 12: Friday 4th September

Year 7 have the first two days, without the full school, to be inducted and settle-in (a separate letter to year 7 will outline these arrangements). Year 11 and 13 will be in assessments on the first two days, the results of which will determine the teaching to follow and any necessary setting of students. Friday will be the first full day of school for all students including the new sixth form students.

Finally, from all our staff, we wish you and your family a restful holiday. I'm confident Riverside School will return to 'near normal' in September - we are very well prepared, and really look forward to safely educating our students, your children, to the very highest standard once again.

Yours Sincerely,



Mr. A. Roberts
Headteacher