



10 July 2020

Dear Parents and Carers,

Firstly, I would like to welcome the parents and carers of our new Y7 cohort who will be part of the mailing list for the first time this week. I am looking forward to formally welcoming their children into The Whitby High School in September – all 300 of them!

I hope that you and your children have enjoyed taking part in the transition activities offered and that all young people have watched my Welcome Video and the Welcomes from their House Progress Managers. We can see there has been a very good uptake to this week's subject challenges. To keep fully up to date with all transition news head to the website <http://www.whitbyhigh.org/year7.html>. Form tutors and HPMs are looking forward to meeting you on Monday or Tuesday in their meetings. If you haven't yet made an appointment do ring on Monday as there should still be availability. New parent and carers can follow us on twitter to keep up to date with events and news.

This week has seen our students taking part in various challenges as they have engaged in our inter-house competition. I am particularly pleased that Y6 students have engaged so enthusiastically with the subject challenges, which will form part of the competition. I am really looking forward to looking at all the work that has been submitted, and finding out who will the Inter-house Champion 2020.

Further to my email last week I am now in a position to inform you of our outline plans for the reopening of the school in September 2020. When putting the plan together I have had to consider a number of things, not least the need to allow students to spend time with their Form Tutors to ease them back into the routine of school. It is clear that some students and indeed staff may be a little anxious about the return to the classroom however, there will be strategies in place to offer support and reassure everyone that we have everything in hand to resume education whilst keeping risk as low as we are able. I do strongly believe that one of the best ways to offer support is to get the students back into a structure and regime they are familiar with as soon as we can. A structure where they feel safe and know that there are people on hand that will help. Over recent weeks, all staff in school have undergone training that has equipped them with the necessary skills to adopt "an informed approach" to support students post lockdown.

Understandably students will want to know when they will return in September. The table below details how and when students will return into school from Thursday 3rd September



2020. As can be seen the plan offers specified induction to all students with a focus initially on our new Y7 cohort who were unable to engage in the crucial induction days in July. We then wish to get all other year groups in school and lessons as soon as possible.

Monday 30 August 2020	Not in session
Tuesday 01 September 2020	Staff INSET Day
Wednesday 02 September 2020	Staff INSET Day Y12/13 Sign up
Thursday 03 September 2020	Y7 Induction Day 1 (10.30am start) Y12 Induction Day with Form Tutors (FT)
Friday 04 September 2020	Y7 Induction Day 2 (FT until 10.30 then lessons) Y11 Induction Day 1 (FT until 10.30am then lessons) Y12 Induction day

Monday 07 September 2020	Y7 – Y11 Extended Form Time all morning Y 12/13 – Extended Form Time all morning Afternoon – all students in lessons
Tuesday 08 September 2020	All classes – normal timetable

This plan offers a reassuring start to both staff and students through time being set aside to offer induction. For some students this can develop from the work completed with them at the start of the reopening period in June.

In developing a new approach to reopening we will reassure that there is not a problem, be transparent in what we are doing, embrace different strategies for learning whilst reskilling and rebuilding their confidence as learners. To do this we will ensure that students are;

- ✓ clear of and understand the plan – “this is what we are going to do and why”.
- ✓ reassured that they have the skills to succeed.
- ✓ back into routines as soon as possible, (some of these will be new!)

September and COVID precautions.

When we open in September the way in which the school operates for students and staff will be different until at least October half term as we endeavour to operate within the guidance set by government. In order to do this we have had to make changes to how and where we work. This has meant a complete rewrite of our timetable to enable us, where ever possible to adopt practices that reduce the risk of transmission of the COVID 19 virus. We will be operating a “bubble” approach and early next week I will email parents and

carers with specific details of this and how we will minimise student interaction outside of their designated bubble. This will include:

- ✓ Y7, 8 and 9 in “regions” within school
- ✓ Y10 and Y11 in extended group bubbles to enable the use of specialist facilities
- ✓ Specified year group lunchtimes.
- ✓ Designated morning break areas with regionalised tuck shops
- ✓ Adjusted start and finish times.
- ✓ Limited travel around the school site via our new one way system
- ✓ Hand hygiene products in every room

Please look out for the more detailed information next week

IMPORTANT – Online safety update

We have been advised by one of our students that the online Blue Whale challenge has resurfaced. This is a dangerous challenge where young people are befriended and encouraged to cause themselves increasing harm. Please discuss this dangerous trend with young people and as always, take an active interest in their online behaviour and encourage them to talk openly with you about it.

School opening from 17th July 2020

As parents and carers are aware The Whitby High School has remained open and maintained provision for the children of Key Workers and vulnerable groups since the lockdown was announced in March. This has included all scheduled holidays and bank holidays. In accordance with government guidance the school will close for the summer break on Friday 17th July 2020. Following that date there will be no facilities within school for childcare. There are a series of summer activities being offered by Cheshire West and Chester local authority that may be of interest to some students. I have attached an outline of these activities and please refer to the details below:

Youth Club / Summer Holiday Provision

Attached to this email is information from Youth Fed about several projects that young people can access over the summer. This doesn't include the September Promise or the Pledge, as Youth Fed are launching these in the next couple of weeks, so we will keep you updated. In addition, Queensbury AP are currently scoping how much demand there would be from services if they offered a Summer Holiday Club. The provision would be reliant on outcomes from a number of grant bids that are in progress, but I have been asked to highlight their intentions so that they can begin planning to accommodate numbers. If there are young people that you think would benefit from engagement over the summer you can contact Paul Copper at QAP via paul@queensberryap.com for more information.

Attendance

Attendance is expected for all students from September. When students return in September many will have been away from school for a very lengthy period and they will need your support and encouragement in getting ready for their return to school, both in mind and body.

Many young people (and adults!) have spent more time than ever online over this lockdown period and for some students a comfort or a dependency on the phones might have formed. Please be aware and remind your children that our school rules on mobile phones remain unchanged. They may not be used anywhere on the premises at any time in the school day. In order that your child does not find themselves breaking this rule please get them used to being without their phone for periods of time prior to their return to school. As usual, any student who is concerned about a situation at home may ask their form tutor or a member of the pastoral team if they may make a call in private outside of lesson time.

We also advise that in the weeks before school those students who have fallen out of a routine ensure that they bring bedtimes back to a reasonable one in order that they are ready for school and best able to concentrate throughout the day. A last minute morning panic because of getting up late does not give the best start to the day for young people. Try and get back into a good sleep routine at least a week before the first day of school.

If you are concerned as a parent about your children returning to school, please ensure that your children do not see this in you. We know that parental worry feeds anxiety in children. There are huge benefits to wellbeing and development that will come through being in school and a full part of our school community again. Attached to this email is some general advice for children returning to school. Though not post-covid specific there is some very useful advice.

Please find attached a reminder, of our school uniform policy list so please ensure that new shoes, hairstyles etc are appropriate. Do follow this list and don't believe your children if they tell you that "everyone else" wears trainer style shoes to school – they don't!

Recording of Prime Minister Boris Johnson's address to school leavers

Today, 43,000 people joined the Prime Minister's live address to all school leavers congratulating them on reaching the end of their final year at school. A recording of the address is now available to view on [Facebook](#) and [YouTube](#).

Protective measures for holiday or after-school clubs and other out-of-school settings for children during the coronavirus (COVID-19) outbreak

The government has published guidance for parents and carers setting out what they need to know about changes to after-school clubs, holiday clubs, tuition, community activities and other out-of-school settings for children and young people during the coronavirus (COVID-19) outbreak. These activities are independent of any school and usually organised by outside agencies such as Edsential. They have included information on what clubs and activities children and young people can attend, and what new safety measures parents and carers can expect them to have in place. The guidance for parents and carers can be found here:

<https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/guidance-for-parents-and-carers-of-children-attending-out-of-school-settings-during-the-coronavirus-covid-19-outbreak>

Free School Meals over the Summer

The government clarified recently that Free School Meal vouchers will continue to be issued to eligible parents and carers over the summer holidays (see below). As outlined in government guidance we have ordered vouchers that will be emailed to eligible parents and carers in the form of £30 vouchers that will be issued to families every fortnight, on 15 July, 29 July and 12 August. Please see details from the government below:

COVID Summer Food Fund Deadline for ordering

You must order the voucher at least one week before your school term ends, and it will be issued to the family within 7 days unless you have specified a distribution date further in the future. For example, schools closing on 17 July must place orders for all vouchers by 10 July.

If you choose a future distribution date, this must be before the end of the school term.

These dates are in place in recognition that schools operate to different term times and that school offices will be closed in the summer holidays.

In exceptional circumstances, you may decide to schedule a number of smaller vouchers to be sent to a family instead of a single £90 voucher. The total combined value of these vouchers cannot exceed £90 per eligible child. These vouchers must also be ordered at least one week before your school term ends. The first of these vouchers must be issued to families before the end of the school term, and the final voucher must be issued to families by 14 August. For example, you could order 3 vouchers for £30 to be issued to families every fortnight, on 15 July, 29 July and 12 August.

Contact with School

It is important that through these difficult times we keep communication between students and school open. I would like to stress again that if students are struggling or have any concerns generally or about their work, they should be keeping in touch with their Form Tutors, HPMs and teachers through emails or contacting school generally.

As parents/carers, we would like to ask you to inform us of anything that you think is important particularly with regards to your child's wellbeing. We need to have an overview about such things as **bereavements, whether Covid-19 related or not** plus things that may have happened over the Lockdown that you believe we should be aware of. Please continue to inform House Progress Managers so that appropriate support can be put in place on their return to school. **However, if you feel you would like to speak with us**

again about anything to do with your child please email their House Progress Manager directly so that they can arrange for a telephone call to be set up with you.

Please can I remind you that when emailing school about specific information relating to your child, **we will not respond to emails sent from a company or business email address**. We will only respond to specific child related queries that come to us from a personal email address related to that child. I am sure that you will appreciate that by responding to an employer based email address this could breach GDPR regulations and safeguarding best practice – potentially putting your child at risk.

Careers Adviser

For interview with our external careers adviser, Paula Owens please contact Miss Connor as soon as possible please by emailing her on. aconnor@whitbyhs.cheshire.sch.uk

Staying Safe outside your home

The latest staying safe outside your home guidance can be found here:

<https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/staying-safe-outside-your-home>

Keeping your child safe on-line

Changes have been made to the advice and guidance to help parents and carers to keep children safe online during the coronavirus (COVID-19) outbreak. The main changes relate to information available on the Apps to help your child stay safe on-line.

[Coronavirus \(COVID-19\): keeping children safe online](#) – updated 25 June

Mental Health for Children Returning to Schools

Please find below additional NHS mental health advice to [parents/carers](#) for children returning to school.

<https://www.england.nhs.uk/2020/06/top-nhs-doctor-issues-advice-for-children-going-back-to-school/>

Coronavirus testing eligibility and how test and testing kits work

Guidance on coronavirus testing, including who is eligible for a test, how to get tested and the different types of test available can be found here:

<https://www.gov.uk/guidance/coronavirus-covid-19-getting-tested>

The Medicines and Healthcare Products Regulatory Agency has published guidance for members of the public and patients about coronavirus tests and testing kits, including information on the different types of tests available and how they work.

<https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/how-tests-and-testing-kits-for-coronavirus-covid-19-work>

Department for Education coronavirus helpline

The Department for Education coronavirus helpline is available to answer questions about COVID-19 relating to education and children's social care. Staff, parents and young people can contact this helpline as follows:

Phone: 0800 046 8687

Opening hours:

8am to 6pm – Monday to Friday

10am to 4pm – Saturday and Sunday

If you work in a school, please have your unique reference number (URN or UK PRN) available when calling the helpline.

Updated handwashing advice

It is essential that everyone washes their hands more often, using soap and water for at least 20 seconds. Hand washing with soap employs mechanical action that loosens bacteria and viruses from the skin, rinsing them into the drain. Drying hands afterwards makes the skin less hospitable to the virus. The latest guidance and video on hand washing can be found at: <https://www.gov.uk/guidance/coronavirus-covid-19-information-for-the-public>

The e-Bug project is led by Public Health England and has a dedicated webpage for learning resources on hand washing and respiratory hygiene. E-Bug has published posters on hand hygiene, and covering coughs and sneezes, to display in bathrooms, classrooms and shared spaces.

The hand and respiratory hygiene posters and other educational resources can be found here: <https://e-bug.eu>

I hope that you are all well and thank you for your continued support.

Take care and stay safe.

Yours sincerely



Mr B Heeley