



Tuesday 8<sup>th</sup> September 2020

Dear Parents and Carers,

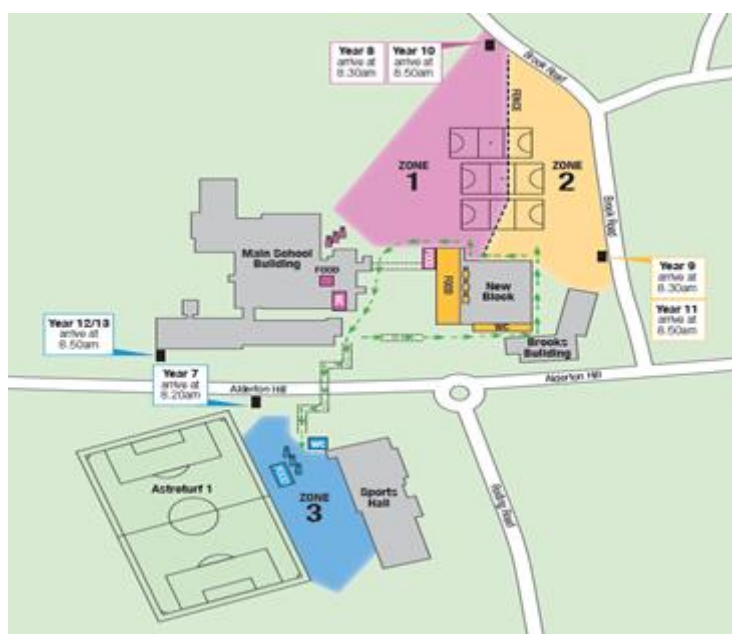
It was an absolute delight to welcome back all the students this morning; it is so lovely to have the school full of students today.

It is my absolute priority to keep the students back in school and continue with the learning in the classroom. Therefore, it is incumbent on **everybody** in the school community to follow the COVID-19 safety guidelines that we have put in place.

As you are aware we have been asked by the Government to ensure that students are kept in year group 'bubbles' and that we operate a system of staggered start times to avoid mixing of bubbles. As a school we have a number of extremely vulnerable staff and students and I am grateful to all the parents who have provided their children with face coverings today. They are being encouraged to wear them when moving around the inside of the school and in communal areas. As you are aware, for those students that travel on public transport or enter any local shops, it is mandatory that they are wearing face coverings.

Please can I ask for your support with the operation of the staggered start to the school day. I appreciate that today the students were really excited to get back with their friends but **I must ask that they do not arrive at the school site until 5 mins before their start time**. We cannot open the school gates earlier as we cannot mix bubbles and this is an important and integral part of our safety plan. A reminder of the staggered start times and entry points are as follows:

Year 7	8.20am	Zone 3
Year 8	8.30am	Zone 1
Year 9	8.30am	Zone 2
Year 10	8.50am	Zone 1
Year 11	8.50am	Zone 2
Year 12/13	8.50am	English



I really do need to stress the need for social distancing when queuing outside the school gates and ask that parents respect the need to maintain the social distance. While I'm sure this was in part due to the excitement of starting a new term, please can I ask for your help in reinforcing social distancing rules and procedures to allow the school to remain open safely. Today, we had large groups of students who had met up with friends much earlier than their start time, waiting outside and along the roads by the school. This will in itself pose a safety risk and I am therefore asking for your immediate support with this issue. I do appreciate that students have varied journeys but please ensure that you work with your child to plan their journey so that they arrive at school just before their start time. This will enable us to monitor the flow of students into the school site and allow us to supervise reasonable, socially distanced queues. I also appreciate that the students are really keen and do not want to be late but arriving early is not something that we can accommodate. Students will need to change their existing journey habits as it is no longer acceptable to meet friends earlier than necessary.

Below is a message to parents from Mike Gogarty, Director of Public Health, on the importance of maintaining social distancing:

*Education settings have been able to return to full-time opening for all students this term, due in large to a reduction in COVID-19 cases in the community. This reduction is thanks to the sacrifices every member of the community made earlier this year, by staying at home, not seeing friends and relatives in person, and maintaining social distancing measures. However, as restrictions have been eased and schools and colleges are now returning full time, we must all remain alert.*

*Schools and colleges have measures in place for pupils attending in order to reduce the spread of COVID-19. They are asking pupils to wash their hands more regularly, restricting time spent in communal areas and, importantly, keeping pupils in class or year group-sized bubbles. This limits the number of people each pupil and staff member comes into contact with in their setting.*

*When travelling to and from settings, we know groups of pupils and parents may arrive at the same time. Schools have put measures in place to aid the safe entry and exit of pupils. These may include queueing systems, one way systems or monitors to oversee arrivals and departures. It is crucial that pupils and parents maintain a two metre distance from others at the school gate. The whole school population, whether on school grounds or off it, must remain vigilant and observe social distancing measures. It is vital we all play our part if we're to avoid a spike in the community and the reintroduction of lockdown measures.*

*I thank you for your support.*

*Dr Mike Gogarty  
Director of Wellbeing, Public Health and Communities, Essex County Council.*

Today we had large groups of students waiting outside of school and along local roads. Current government restrictions are that large groups of people should not be congregating in public spaces and that they should be observing social distancing at all times. If this were to continue it will become a concern in the local community and with the safety procedures being asked of us by public health England.



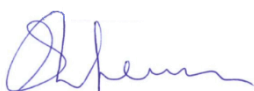
There are similar procedures at the end of the school day, with staggered finish times. It is therefore, really important that students immediately leave the area and make their way home. Again, it would not be acceptable for students to be waiting for friends and hanging about in groups.

I appreciate that this may cause issues for particular families but please can they make themselves known to their Year Progress Leader and we can make specific arrangements with them. Here is a reminder of the timings of the new school day.

13			9.00 Arrival	9.00-10.00 Period 2	10-11.00 Period 3	11.00-11.25 Break	11.25 Line up	11.30-12.30 Period 4	12.30-13.30 Period 5	13.30 Departure	Period 6 Online			
12			9.00 Arrival	9.00-10.00 Period 2	10-11.00 Period 3	11.00-11.25 Break	11.25 Line up	11.30-12.30 Period 4	12.30-13.30 Period 5	13.30 Departure	Period 6 online			
11			8.50 Arrival 8.55 Line Up	9.00-10.00 Period 2	10-11.00 Period 3	11.00-11.25 Break	11.25 Line up	11.30-12.30 Period 4	12.30-13.30 Period 5	13.30-13.55 Break	13.55 Line up	14.00-15.00 Period 6	15.00-16.00 Period 7 Intervention/ C&C as appropriate	
10			8.50 Arrival 8.55 Line Up	9.00-10.00 Period 2	10-11.00 Period 3	11.00-11.25 Break	11.25 Line up	11.30-12.30 Period 4	12.30-13.30 Period 5	13.30-13.55 Break	13.55 Line up	14.00-15.00 Period 6	15.00-15.20 Reg/C&C	15.20 Departure
9			8.30 Arrival 8.35 Line Up	8.40-9.00 Period 1	9.00-10.00 Period 2	10.00-10.25 Break	10.25 Line up	10.30-11.30 Period 3	11.30-12.30 Period 4	12.30-12.55 Break	12.55 Line up	13.00-14.00 Period 5	14.00-14.50 Period 6	14.50 Departure
8			8.30 Arrival 8.35 Line Up	8.40-9.00 Period 1	9.00-10.00 Period 2	10.00-10.25 Break	10.25 Line up	10.30-11.30 Period 3	11.30-12.30 Period 4	12.30-12.55 Break	12.55 Line up	13.00-14.00 Period 5	14.00-14.40 Period 6	14.40 Departure
7			8.20 Arrival 8.25 Line Up	8.40-9.00 Period 1	9.00-10.00 Period 2	10.00-10.25 Break	10.25 Line up	10.30-11.30 Period 3	11.30-12.30 Period 4	12.30-12.55 Break	12.55 Line up	13.00-14.00 Period 5	14.00-14.40 Period 6	14.40 Departure

I thank you in advance for your immediate support with this issue.

Kind regards



Sharon Jenner  
Headteacher

