

15th July 2020

Dear Parent/Carer

September opening plans

Further to my letter dated 3rd July regarding the school's September opening plans, please see below further details of the arrangements we are required to put in place following the Department for Education guidance. I can reassure you that these arrangements will only be in place whilst the virus is still prevalent in the community. As soon as the government is confident that the prevalence of the virus has diminished sufficiently we will review our position and consider whether it is safe to revert back to our usual school arrangements.

School will reopen on Wednesday 2nd September for Year 7 only

Years 8 – 11 will return to school on Thursday 3rd September 2020

Full details are given in the additional PDF guidance document however a brief summary of the arrangements is given below – please note that all year group information refers to the year group your child is in from September not their current year group

We intend to organise the school into 'year group bubbles', which will consist of a number of classrooms with all students sitting at forward facing desks. This 'bubble' will allow us to keep cross year group contact to a minimum whilst still providing your child with a full curriculum offer. Students will be allocated to a classroom and will have their lessons within that classroom. All year groups will have their break and lunch times on a rotational basis to again keep cross year group contact to a minimum.

Arriving at school – no students should arrive at school before 8.45 am

For those students who arrive to school using school transport – students are expected to wear face masks, these are being provided by Enterprise travel. Once students arrive at school they must put their face masks in the bins provided and use the hand sanitiser provided.

For those students using public transport - they must follow the current guidance and are expected to wear face coverings. Once students arrive at school they must either put their face mask in the bins provided or put their mask in a plastic bag and keep it in their school bag until required at the end of the school day, they must also use the hand sanitiser provided.

For those students using taxis – they must follow the current guidance and they must use the hand sanitiser provided when they arrive at school.

For those students who walk to school or arrive in private cars - they must use the hand sanitiser provided when they arrive at school.

School uniform

In terms of school uniform, the guidance is clear that "uniforms do not need to be cleaned any more often than usual, nor do they need to be cleaned using methods which are different from normal". Therefore when we do return to school in September the students will do so in **winter uniform** which comprises plain black shoes/low heeled boots, black trousers, white shirt, school tie and school jumper. Uniform can be obtained from <https://elizabethsembroidery.morephotos.net/collections> and use the password (hurworth). Please use



the link to book appointments or order online. If you are experiencing difficulties sourcing other items of uniform not available from Elizabeth's Embroidery, please let us know and we will try to help.

PE lessons

On days when students have PE lessons, there will be no changing facilities available, students should wear appropriate sportswear i.e. jogging bottoms or leggings and a t-shirt plus trainers – this should be suitable for wearing for the whole day.

Equipment

For individual and very frequently used equipment, it is recommended that students have their own items that are not shared, therefore we will expect all students to have pen, pencil, ruler, rubber and calculator with them on a daily basis. Students will be expected to bring a bag with them and this should be large enough to carry an A4 file in them. Students in Years 7-9 should also have an appropriate reading book with them.

Medical conditions

If your child has a condition which requires them to take regular prescribed medication, then they will be able to access this via the Main Office at the appropriate times. If your child has Asthma they must carry their inhaler with them. If your child has an Epi-pen they must also have their Epi-pen with them at all times.

Canteen facilities

There will be a limited hot and cold food menu on offer at break time and lunch time. If your child brings a packed lunch to school, please send their lunch in a bag that can be disposed of after eating.

Water

There will be very limited access to the water coolers in school, therefore all students should bring their own full water bottles with them – this should be of a size sufficient for their needs for the day. Fizzy or energy drinks are not permitted.

Attendance

All students are expected to return to school and the normal school attendance procedures will be in place. If your child is unwell you must telephone the office by 9.00 am with a reason for absence. Parents/carers should maintain daily contact with school for the period of absence unless advised otherwise. If there is no contact from parents/carers to advise of the reason for absence (in line with our school attendance and safeguarding policies), school will undertake first day calling and then may conduct a socially distanced home visit.

If you have been advised that your child will be unable to attend due to shielding, self-isolating or if your child or a member of their household has a positive test, then please contact the school.

Mobile phones

If your child brings their mobile phone to school, their phone will be placed in a plastic bag in their form room and will then be collected for safe storage and then returned to them at the end of the school day.

Behaviour Expectations

The behaviour expectations of the school remain unchanged and we will expect all students to uphold these in September.



If you have any concerns about your child before we return to school, then please contact the school office between 8.30 am - 4.00 pm. You can also contact the school via email enquiries@hurworthschool.org.uk during the summer break.

Routines

Returning to school in September is always hard for pupils, getting used to early mornings, structure and routine can be challenging. We welcome your support in ensuring that your child develops a routine ahead of September. Students need to get back into their usual sleep patterns, get into the habit of packing their bags the night before, making sure they have all of their equipment (including bus passes where applicable) and getting their uniform ready so that they are in less of a rush on the morning. Whilst delays caused by school or public transport are beyond the students control, we will expect them to be punctual on a morning rather than being delayed by a lack of organisation.

Curriculum

Over the past few months, students have been completing their work remotely and have missed the social interaction with their friends and teachers, as well as losing their usual structure and routine. As a school we have put many plans in place to ensure your child has a smooth transition back into the school environment, that they are supported at all levels and are ready to learn.

During the first few days in September tutor groups and subject areas will be completing a range of activities focusing on re-establishing relationships, sharing stories, relaxation and recovery, self-care and readiness to learn. Departments will be using a variety of formative teaching and learning techniques to identify any gaps in students' knowledge and ensure that these are addressed. We also have several events planned to celebrate us being back together as a school community.

Once these elements have been completed, students will be able to access the 20/21 curriculum that all staff have been further developing throughout these last few months:

- The unlock, key and lock tasks that were launched just before lockdown and aim to improve students' retrieval of knowledge have now been embedded into all lesson resources
- Knowledge organisers have been created and ILTs have been revamped to support students' understanding of the different retrieval strategies and enhance progress with independent learning
- Tutor revision tasks have been developed, alongside a revision toolkit, to ensure students know how to use these strategies efficiently
- Cross curricular links have been built across subjects to allow students to make connections between topics and deepen their understanding
- Careers activities within departments have been expanded to provide students with further information of post-16 choices
- 5 year learning journeys are now displayed in all classrooms to reinforce the links between units
- Read and watch lists are also now uploaded onto the subject pages of the school website to promote further reading and allow students to broaden their knowledge of key concepts. These are a great starting point if your child wishes to complete some additional tasks over the summer holidays. These can all be accessed via the school website.



If your child is returning into Year 11, we would also like to take this opportunity to reassure you that we have everything in place to ensure that our students are not disadvantaged in their GCSE exams. We are in constant contact with Ofqual and the exam boards and are fully prepared for all circumstances. The Ofqual consultation process for the 2021 exams is currently open and as soon as we have the conclusions from that then we will share them with you.

Relationship, Sexual Health and Health Education (RSHE)

From September 2020, it is a statutory requirement that all schools in England and Wales teach Relationship, Sexual Health and Health Education (RSHE) as a fundamental part of the curriculum. Hurworth School has always been committed to the provision of good quality PSHCE (Personal, Social, Health, Citizenship and Economic Education) which includes Relationships, Sexual Health and Health education.

At Hurworth, we have always followed the PSHE Association's framework for best practice and so the new regulations have not required us to change our curriculum content significantly. In order to access extra training and advice we made the decision to become an early adopter of the new RSHE regulations in 2019. As part of implementing the RSHE curriculum from September 2020, schools must consult with the children, parents, staff and governors to ensure there is a general consensus on our approaches to policy and the curriculum content. Due to the school closures we are unable to do the parent consultation in person and so we have attached the copy of our PSHCE Policy (which includes our provision for Relationships and Sexual Health Education). This policy sets out the intentions behind our curriculum, how it is implemented and how we measure the impact of our teaching. It also contains information about changes to the law on the right to withdrawal from sexual health education.

If you have any questions or comments regarding the new policy then please do not hesitate to contact school. In addition, if you wish to carry out further reading around RSHE, the following document may be of use to you:

[Government Guidance](#)

Thank you for your support



Miss N Peaker
Head of School