



DARRICK WOOD SCHOOL

RESPECT | RESPONSIBILITY | HONESTY

Dear Parent/Carer

Thank you for your support over the past few months. As you are aware, schools have now been asked to plan for the return of all students full-time in September. The government has provided guidance to support us with this challenge. This states that schools must ensure that:

- people who have one or more symptoms of COVID-19 must stay at home
- robust hand and respiratory hygiene are established
- cleaning arrangements are enhanced
- there is active engagement with NHS Test and Trace

We should also reduce mixing and maximise distance between those in school wherever possible whilst delivering a broad and balanced curriculum. To do this will mean making changes that will vary from school to school but the guidance suggests:

- Grouping children together in “bubbles” (likely to be whole year group bubbles in a secondary school)
- Minimising contact between some groups
- Arranging classrooms with forward facing desks where possible
- Staff maintaining distance from students and other staff as much as possible

We have given careful thought to this in our context. In implementing our plans we will:

- Minimise the risk of contraction and transmission of COVID-19 on the School site
- Support all students to return successfully to school and provide them with the pastoral care they need
- Teach a broad and balanced curriculum in school, supported by improved remote learning, building on what we have learnt over the past few months
- In time, identify and close any gaps in students’ knowledge, understanding and skills

Everything set out below is what we are currently planning. If there is a need to change any aspect of the arrangements, we will let you know as soon as we can.

A phased start to the term for different year groups

Year groups will return to school on different dates over the first week and a half of the term. Whilst we would prefer to see all students returning quickly after such a long time away from school, we feel this phased start to the term will allow us to best implement the government guidance of year group “bubbles”. It will also ensure all students understand how to conduct themselves around the site and in lessons. Year groups who return later will be set remote learning to complete. In selecting this order, we have taken account of whether students are at the beginning of a one or two year course, whether we have had the opportunity to bring them onto the site this term as well as the age of each cohort.

Year 7 – start on Friday, 4th September

Year 8 – start on Monday, 14th September

Year 9 – start on Wednesday, 9th September

Year 10 – start on Wednesday, 16th September

Year 11 – start on Tuesday, 8th September

Year 12 – enrol Friday, 4th September, start Friday, 11th September

Year 13 – start Monday, 7th September

Uniform and Sixth Form dress code

Students will be expected to follow our full uniform policy and Sixth Form dress code. All uniform must be purchased from our usual suppliers (Oz, Petts Wood and Graduates, Orpington). We have written to you recently about how these shops are arranging for parents to purchase uniform for their children. We are considering if we can arrange a secondhand uniform sale before September and will let you know if this is possible.

Over the past few years it has become increasingly difficult and potentially expensive for parents to find the right colour brown coat for Darrick Wood. **We have therefore made the decision to allow plain black coats to be worn as well as plain dark brown. Coats must not have large logos.** Please make sure your child has the appropriate coat to wear as they are likely to be spending more time outside at break and lunch.

All students (not just those in the Sixth Form) will be issued with badges and lanyards on their first day at school. These must be worn every day whilst at school. The school catering system will be linked to the ID badge (replacing the 'fob' that was in use this year). Each year group will have a different coloured ID badge so that we can easily ensure students are staying within their year group bubble.

Changes to the school day

To reduce the likelihood of congestion, the start and finish times of the school day will vary by year group. We are also staggering break and lunchtimes to reduce numbers in the Dining Halls and to allow for enhanced cleaning routines.

Year	Arrive	Depart	Break/lunch (both 30 minutes)
7	8.15am	2.50pm	10.00am and 12.30pm
8	8.15am	2.55pm	10.00am and 12.30pm
9	8.30am	3.00pm	11.00am and 1.30pm
10	8.30am	3.05pm	11.00am and 1.30pm
11	8.45am	3.10pm	11.00am and 1.30pm *
12	8.45am	3.15pm	10.00am and 12.30pm
13	8.45am	3.15pm	11.00am and 1.30pm

Food will be served in our usual facilities, but each year group will access these separately and we are planning to provide at least one additional servery to support this. Most eating will take place outside wherever possible.

Full timings of the school day will be placed on the website by the end of this term.

***In a change to our normal routines, Year 11 will remain on site during these break and lunch.**

Sixth Form

From September, to support the principle of year group bubbles, Years 12 and 13 will use separate floors of the Rhymaun Building for independent study.

On their first full day of attendance (Year 13 on Monday, 7th September and Year 12 on Friday, 11th September) all students must arrive for **8.45am** and report to their Form room for extended morning registration. On all other days going forward, Sixth Form students will only need to be on site when they have lessons or timetabled independent study. If they do not have a lesson period 1, they need only arrive in time for their first lesson (e.g. period 2).

Sixth Form - Bring Your Own Device

To reduce the sharing of school resources, there will no longer be any computers provided in our areas for independent study (i.e. Resource Centre). Please be aware that students will need to bring their own device for use in school from September and agree to follow the BYOD policy on the website.

Travel

As per the government guidance, where possible students should be encouraged to walk or cycle to school.

Attendance

The government has stated that attendance at school will be compulsory in September. Please ensure your child can attend from the start of term. If you are planning to travel abroad this summer, please take account of any quarantine restrictions that may be in place at the time of travel.

Cleaning and hygiene

All students and staff will be expected to use hand sanitiser on arrival and to wash their hands well and use sanitiser regularly through the day. We will be enhancing the cleaning of classrooms and other areas of the School. Any member of the school community with one or more COVID-19 symptoms must not attend school. If they become unwell on site, students will be placed in isolation and parents contacted to take them home. They will be expected to arrange for a test. The test result must then be shared with the School as soon as it is received. Should a student's test confirm that he or she has contracted COVID-19, the School will do all it can to engage with NHS Test and Trace - <https://www.nhs.uk/conditions/coronavirus-covid-19/testing-and-tracing/>

Behaviour

There will be strict expectations of behaviour. Our usual rules will be supplemented by further expectations of student conduct to ensure all members of the School community can be on site safely together.

Student groupings

In Years 10 to 13, we will continue with the usual setting arrangements for core subjects and grouping arrangements in optional subjects. For Years 7, 8 and 9, we will reduce the number of different class groupings that we use in order to reduce mixing between different students in each year group during the school day. Therefore, in Key Stage 3, students will be grouped in Form Groups or general ability groups with specific groups for different modern foreign languages and for Design and Technology classes.

I am aware that some of these changes are significant but each one has been carefully thought through and exists in order to support our wider aims set out at the top of this communication. We will write to you during the summer break if anything changes. Parents who have child starting in Year 7 in September will receive a separate email tomorrow regarding specifics for their first day in school.

Yours sincerely

Dr M J Airey
Head Teacher