



Parent Newsletter

St Mary Magdalene Secondary

Issue No 19 | June | Wednesday 10th June

Dear Parent/Carers ,

Following on from the information I have shared in my weekly newsletters regarding the phased opening of schools for year 10 students from the 15th June, I am writing to update you about the final plan from next week.

I have participated in a number of discussions with RBG and the other secondary schools in the local authority to share practical ideas and advice on how best to safely reopen. We as a senior leadership team have given careful consideration to the guidance issued from the DFE and worked with the governors and the premises team to create a return that reduces as much risk as possible to both children and staff.

The return will be in two phases. Initially, next week will provide an opportunity for all of our students to return to school for one day. The reason for this is that in line with government guidance, we are only able to allow a maximum of 45 year 10 students on each day. Please see the timetable below for what this day will look like:

	Group 1 – 15 students Start 9.00 – Dismissal 2pm	Group 2 – 15 students Start 9.30 – Dismissal 2.30pm	Group 3 – 15 students Start 10am – Dismissal 3.00
Arrival	Wellbeing	Wellbeing	Wellbeing
P1	Maths	Maths	Maths
P2	English	English	English
Break	Break	Break	Break
P3	Science	Science	Science
Lunch	Lunch	Lunch	Lunch
P4	Other GCSE subjects	Other GCSE subjects	Other GCSE subjects

Students will be invited in according to their Maths sets.

On Monday, group 1 and group 2 will consist of Omega 1 students and Group 3 will be half of Omega 2

On Tuesday, group 1 will consist of the other 15 Omega 2 students and Groups 2 and 3 will be all of Gamma 1

On Wednesday, group 1, 2 and 3 will consist of all Gamma 2 students

On Thursday, group 1,2 and 3 will consist of all Alpha 1 and Alpha 2 students

You will be receiving a phone call before Friday this week to confirm your child's attendance for next week and during this call, the above information will be repeated to you.

You will also be receiving a personal text confirming which day your child is to attend school.

For the remaining four weeks of the academic school year (i.e. from the week beginning 22nd June) your child will be invited to attend school for a full week at a time. Omega 1, Gamma 1 and Alpha 1 will be expected to attend for the entire week beginning 22nd June and Omega 2, Gamma 2 and Alpha 2 will be at school for the entire week beginning 29th June.

Please note the following measures will be in place to ensure safety for all students:

- The school will maintain frequent levels of cleaning, hand washing and infection control systems
- Students will be taught in the same group each day and not mix with students in other groups at all (please note that they cannot be guaranteed to be placed in the same groups as their friends)
- Students will be educated in a classroom of up to 15 students where 2 metre social distancing will be attempted at all times, but may not always be possible
- Students will have break times with the students in their group only - to provide the safest environment possible for all, different groups will not be allowed to mix
- Students must minimise bringing items to school from home (for example, no pencil cases)
- To prevent any possible spread of infection, parents may not enter any part of the school building, including the office. Communication must be via the telephone or email. An appointment will have to be made in advance if a parent wishes to come onto the school grounds. Only one parent/carer should bring their child to school and they MUST observe social distancing outside the school and gates.
- The school will have PPE and safety equipment for any staff providing intimate care to children or providing first aid treatment
- Student should bring full bottles of water

We understand that some parents who are able to send their child to school may choose to keep their child at home. This is a family decision and no family will be expected to send their child to school before the end of this academic year unless they feel comfortable doing so. You or your child will not be penalised for this and home learning will continue to be provided.

Once our phased return begins next week, the children of key workers will be able to continue attending school using the current provision that is in place.

We will continue to maintain our home learning platforms and **all students must continue to complete their home learning alongside the work completed in school**. Home learning will continue to be uploaded daily onto Satchel and all students are expected to complete all work set. Some of the work which is set on Satchel will be completed by students when in school. This work is vitally important in preparing students for their GCSE examinations next summer, work is being monitored by teachers and school leaders, and all students will be assessed on this work.

I have received a few questions via email regarding the phased return, many of which will hopefully be answered by the above. **Below is some further information and some 'frequently asked questions'**.

EVERY FRIDAY THE SCHOOL WILL CLOSE BY 1.15PM FOR ALL STUDENTS

This will allow our cleaning contractors extra time to carry out an enhanced clean at the end of the week. It also allows us to give our teachers the statutory 10% PPA (Planning, Preparation and Assessment) time to which they are entitled each week.

CAN I SEND MY CHILD IN FOR ONLY PART OF THE WEEK?

With the exception of children whose parents are critical workers, it is not possible for students to attend for one certain days or sessions and students must attend each day they are allocated. Due to the logistical complications this presents we can only offer part time places to the children who will be attending our critical worker hub.

WHAT ARE THE DROP OFF AND PICK UP PROCEDURES?

We anticipate most students will continue to arrive at school on their own; by foot, bicycle or public transport. It is very important that they arrive on time to school so as to avoid mixing with other students. If you wish to drop off your child, where possible only one adult should do so. If there are siblings who are not attending school please leave them at home if there is an adult to supervise them. If you have no other alternative but to bring other children when dropping your child off, please ensure your children follow our drop off arrangements and do not mix with other children they see. If your child travels to school independently, it is important you share with them our rules about start and finish times.

WHAT ARE THE PLANS FOR SCHOOL DINNERS?

Students will not be able to buy lunch at school. Your child is expected to bring their own packed lunch and a bottle of water to school; all students will be eating lunch within their 'bubbles' and not in the main dining space. If you are in receipt of free school meals, we will be able to provide school packed lunches.

WHAT IF I DECIDE NOT TO SEND MY CHILD TO SCHOOL?

This is a family decision and current guidance indicates no parent will be penalised for keeping their child at home.

WHAT ARE THE PLANS FOR HOME LEARNING FOR THOSE STUDENTS NOT ATTENDING SCHOOL?

The home learning provision will continue to be set for those students working at home including Year 10s when they are not in school, and all other year groups. We strongly encourage you to regularly check that your children are completing as much work as they possibly can.

CONTROLLING THE VIRUS

SOCIAL DISTANCING

As much as is possible classrooms will be set up as a 'bubble' of no more than 15 students. Students will work through their set home learning, and each will have a named work desk. We have created stationery packs for each individual child to use so no child needs to bring anything into school. Staff will be keeping a suitable distance from students as much as possible. If a student requires first aid or intervention for a specific behaviour or SEND, we cannot always manage these activities at a social distance. We already have in place individual risk assessments for those students with special needs. Staff who have very close contact with children due to medical needs will be provided with PPE (personal protection equipment). We also have signage at our entrances and throughout the school building to remind everyone about social distancing. Please note: no parents will be allowed on the school site. If you need to speak to a member of staff, please telephone or e-mail the school office. Please do not try to enter the school grounds to go to the school office unless an appointment has been arranged.

PERSONAL PROTECTIVE EQUIPMENT (PPE)

The current guidance makes it clear that staff should not be wearing PPE. Children will not be allowed to wear masks into school. There is some medical evidence that shows that wearing and using a mask incorrectly can inadvertently increase the risk of transmission it is therefore recommended in the DFE guidance that masks and gloves should not be worn in school.

The exception to this is the use of *situational PPE* where staff may have to care for a pupil who has become unwell during the school day and are showing signs or symptoms of Covid-19, or where a child has a specific SEND that means staff may be at risk from physical actions. Situational PPE may also be used if a member of staff has to provide first aid or undertake personal hygiene routines.

HAND WASHING

Staff will direct students to wash their hands and wrists multiple times a day: this will include at the beginning of school, before they eat, after sneezing or touching their face (as practical) and before they leave the premises. Lessons will include how to maintain hygiene during the pandemic. We will provide tissues and lidded bins to support best hygiene practices. Anti-bacterial gel will be available at the school entrance. When students arrive in their 'bubble' classroom they will wash their hands. Cleaning spray and paper towels will in place in each classroom for wiping surfaces. Visual reminders and posters will be placed around the school as frequent reminders.

WHAT HAPPENS IF A MEMBER OF THE CLASS OR STAFF BECOME ILL?

Students and adults will be reminded that they, or other members of their family, must self-isolate if any symptoms become evident. They will be advised that they should follow Covid-19 guidance and seek testing. If a student shows signs or symptoms at school, they will be moved out of their 'bubble' to a room where they can be isolated. If the child is at an appropriate age where they can be supervised from behind a window, they will be monitored from behind a closed door. Where this is not possible, staff will use PPE. If the child uses the toilet facilities whilst they wait they will be cleaned before the next use.

Where a child or member of staff test positive for the virus, parents will be contacted by the school and that 'bubble' will be sent home and advised to isolate for 14 days. Children and staff from that 'bubble' will NOT be allowed to return until those 14 days have passed. (The other household members of that bubble do not need to self-isolate unless the child or member of staff they live with subsequently develops symptoms.)

I would like to thank everyone for your patience and understanding at this extremely difficult time of change and uncertainty.

I thank you for your continued support..

Warm regards and best wishes,

Mr R Hussain
Principal