



Parent Newsletter

St Mary Magdalene Secondary

Issue No 01 | August | Friday 28th August

Dear Parents/Carers,

I hope you have enjoyed the summer holidays and that you and your loved ones are keeping well. The change in weather this week is perhaps symbolic as we approach the end of the summer.

In August, we were very saddened by the sudden death of our Facilities Manager, Mr Dapo Williams. We know that some of your children will have fond memories of him as he was always very positive and encouraging towards all of our students. We ask that you will hold him and his family in your prayers.

We are in the fortunate position that Mr Aaron Flanagan has returned for an interim period as Facilities Manager and we welcome him back to the Federation.

As you will be aware from previous correspondence, the DfE have published guidance for schools for the wider reopening from September. Attendance at school will again become an expectation for all children, unless there are specific health implications and children have been advised to continue shielding. I would like to provide you with some details about how school is going to operate from September.

Start of term dates:

Wednesday 2nd September: INSET day

Thursday 3rd September: INSET day

Friday 4th September: Year 7 only – full Induction day

Monday 7th September: Return for all students

During school closures staff and school leaders carefully planned how this year's curricula will ensure students catch up in any necessary areas of study that may have suffered during remote learning. Each subject area has mapped out a bespoke key stage 3 and key stage 4 curriculum for the coming year, deciding where in 2020-2021 essential skills and knowledge areas will be revisited in the classroom.

We want our students and families to feel reassured that we have thorough plans in place to cover all essential curriculum areas, working constantly with the latest guidance and with exam boards. Teachers will be talking through the shape of their subject's curriculum with students in the first week back.

Having worked carefully through the DfE guidance, and considered the manner in which the school can best meet the needs of children, I can confirm the following measures will be in place:

Timetable: The school timetable aims to enable all of our students to access a full curriculum whilst maintaining as much of a year group bubble as possible. As you can see in the tables below, all year groups will start school at the same time (with Year 7 able to enter school slightly earlier) but students will enter via different entrances. Most students will understand which entrance we refer to on the table below, but I stress that we will have a large number of staff members outside during the first week and there will be a member of the SLT and a Head of Year on each entrance gate to welcome and support all of our students. Dismissal time will also vary for each year group: as outlined below, Year 7 will be dismissed at 2.45pm, Years 8 and 9 at 3pm, and Years 10 and 11 at 3.15pm. Given the limited amount of space on public transport, I strongly urge you to ensure your children walk or cycle to school if at all possible. As explained in my letter during the Summer term, the timings within the school day will be slightly different for Years 7-8 and Years 9-11. This system will ensure that there is no mixing between different year groups.

Entrance times and gates					
	Year 7	Year 8	Year 9	Year 10	Year 11
Gate opens	8.25 – 8.40	8.30 – 8.45	8.30 – 8.45	8.30 – 8.45	8.30 – 8.45
Entrance gate	Primary Entrance	Sports Hall Entrance	Secondary Entrance	Main Reception	The Trail/ Roundabout

Timetable of the school day			
Years 7 and 8		Years 9, 10 and 11	
8.45-9.10	FG/CW	FG/CW	8.45-9.10
9.10-10.10	Period 1	Period 1	9.10-10.10
10.10-10.30	Break	Period 2	10.10-11.10
10.30-11.30	Period 2	Break	11.10-11.30
11.30-12.30	Period 3	Period 3	11.30-12.30
12.30-13.15	Lunch	Period 4	12.30-13.30
13.15-14.15	Period 4	Lunch	13.30-14.15
14.15-14.45	Y7 Period 5	Y9 Period 5	14.15-15.00
14.15-15.00	Y8 Period 5	Y10 Period 5	14.15-15.15
		Y11 Period 5	14.15-15.15

Face covering:

There has been a lot of new information in the news regarding face covering. Our school stance on face covering is that all students are allowed to wear a face covering when they are walking through the corridors or spending time in communal spaces. Students will not be allowed to wear face covering within the classroom. Please ensure the following:

- Face covering is an actual mask designed as a precautionary measure to prevent the spread of the virus. Scarves or bandanas are not acceptable.
- Mask must go over your nose and mouth and secured under your chin (make sure you can breathe easily)
- Must be washable material
- Masks should not be touched – generally hands should be washed before putting a mask on
- As soon as students are back in class, masks must be removed and stored in a safe and clean section of their bag
- Masks must not be shared
- Any inappropriate behaviour using a mask will always result in a serious consequence

Public Transport:

As mentioned above, I do strongly urge you to encourage your children to walk or cycle to school. This may not be possible for all and many students will still need to get a bus. TfL have announced that over two hundred extra buses will be introduced and some existing regular buses as special 'school services' at peak times. These measures should be in place until the end of October. Please note that any children over the age of 11 will need face covering on all forms of public transport.

Further details:

- Staggered lunch time and separate outdoor space to be used for each year group.
- All breaks to be held within period 2 classrooms.
- The PE curriculum will be taught as normal. Please ensure your child brings their PE kit to school on the day they are timetabled to do so.
- Our current regimes of handwashing, cleaning, good respiratory hygiene and environment adaptations will continue, including the use of situational PPE as needed. Additional cleaning of communal areas will be in place and the necessary resources to manage classrooms and other school areas, such as PE equipment, will be in place.
- Where there are specific concerns, such as health, significant anxiety, SEND or trauma that may require a more tailored approach for individuals, this will be discussed with individual parents. If you feel there is information that we do not know about your child and their return to school, please email the school (romard@koinoniafederation.com).
- There will be no other after school clubs for the month of September. We will review this after the first couple of weeks and then send out more information.

The risk assessment will regularly be reviewed by the SLT to ensure best practice so that your child will be safe when they return to school.

Please note, if your child is displaying any COVID symptoms, they must take a COVID test and self isolate for a period of 14 days. If your child tests positive, you must notify the school immediately and continue to self isolate. If the test is negative and your child is no longer displaying any symptoms, they can then return to school once they are feeling better.

Any students who begin to experience or develop COVID-like symptoms during the school day will be sent to the medical office immediately. If concerned, the Medical Coordinator will contact parents and advise on the next steps.

Alongside this update you will also find a letter from Mr Hopkins, Assistant Principal for Behaviour, outlining the school behaviour expectations. Please do read this carefully, as our expectations for our students will be even higher than normal as we prepare for a new unique school year.

As always, I remain grateful for your support through this challenging time. I look forward to the new school year with renewed excitement and pray that we have a consistent year of teaching and learning – at school!

Sincerely,

Mr R Hussain
Principal