



14th July 2020

Dear Parents/Carers

As we arrive at the end of what has been a particularly challenging year, I am happy to be able to write to you to confirm the plans for our full school opening in September 2020. Our priority is to welcome your children back to school to resume a high quality education with a broad and balanced curriculum whilst following the Public Health guidance to ensure our school is as safe as possible for all. The contents of this letter are very important and you should read this with your children.

Firstly, students in each year group will be in a **designated area** of school for the duration of each day; they are effectively bubbled, minimising contact with students from other year groups in lessons; whilst moving around school and during breaks and lunchtimes. All children will be in the same group for each lesson in Year 7, 8 and 9 and will remain in the same classroom, other than for practical subjects such as PE, art, music and computing. Students in Years 10 and 11 will follow their usual timetable but will remain in the same designated area.

Protocols will be in place for maintaining **cleanliness and sanitisation** throughout the day: during break and lunchtimes; whilst entering school and moving around; using the toilet facilities and whilst travelling on the school buses (for those who choose that transport option.) The school bus will be running in September. At present we are working with Moving People to make the transport of pupils to and from school as safe as possible. If you accessed the school bus this year you will be given priority access. More details will follow shortly.

To support the school's strategy to minimise queues in the building and maximise time outdoors at social times, the menu available to students at lunch will be significantly reduced in choice. This will allow the serving of lunch to be a much quicker process. We will also be asking students to take their 'lunch bags' outside to eat where the weather permits. Please send your child in with a **snack for break** time because until routines are established, the canteen will not be open at break time. If you wish to send your child to school with a packed lunch, we would encourage this.

We will be welcoming students back to school in a staggered way so that every year group can be fully inducted to the new school day.

Date	Year groups attending school: Each year group should arrive at school by 8.20am ready for an 8.30am start
Wednesday 2 nd Sept	Year 7 only
Thursday 3 rd Sept	Year 7 & Year 11
Friday 4 th Sept	Year 7, Year 10 and Year 11
Monday 7 th Sept	Year 7, Year 9, Year 10 and Year 11
Tuesday 8 th Sept	All year groups

Practical advice for parents to prepare for September:

- If possible and safe to do so, encourage your child to walk or cycle to school.
- If this is not possible, then your child must have a face mask for the journey and a plastic bag to store the mask when they arrive in school. There is no requirement to wear face masks whilst in the school building unless the guidance from Public Health changes prior to September, if so we will advise.



- Please make sure that your child arrives at school for an 8:20am entrance to the building. As the weather may not always be predictable, it is very important that your child has a warm waterproof jacket at all times.
- Please support us by **not dropping your child off at school before 8.15am**; children will not be able to enter the building until 8.20am and there will be no breakfast club facility.
- Explain the importance of remaining within the year group 'bubble' and staying within the designated zones whilst inside and outside the building.
- Students will not be brought inside the building unless there is particularly bad weather; it is important your child has a **warm, waterproof coat with them at all times**.
- Students will also need a good-sized school bag because all student lockers have been locked down to minimise movement and will not be available.
- Please make sure that your child is equipped with their iPad which must be fully charged and in good working order and a full set of essential stationery/equipment every day. Discuss with your child the importance of not sharing their equipment with others.
- Discuss the [catch it, kill it, bin it](#) approach and the [six steps to hand-washing](#) stages with your child. These are the best strategies for minimising the risk of infection.
- Notify school immediately if either your child or someone in your household is displaying symptoms of Covid-19. Follow the PHE "Stay at Home" [guidance](#) and arrange to have a test.
- If your child has any underlying health conditions, make sure you discuss your child's return to school with your doctor and advise the school of any information you feel we need to be aware of. Further support and guidance can be found [here](#).
- Please read through the updated Home School Agreement at the end of this letter with your child regarding their return to school in September.

We are also fully aware that there may well have been significant differences in the learning experiences of students during lockdown, with some children engaged in learning life skills, and others engaging in more formal learning each day. Some children may have done no formal learning at all. The key thing for all of us as we focus on returning to school, parents, students and staff, is to stay safe and focus on a full recovery. Underpinning this time of transition to a new way of working are relationships; all of us talking, listening and understanding. Often, children manage their emotions quite differently to adults, so it is important for us all to keep them talking, to try to comfort and calm, where appropriate, as well as acknowledging what children have experienced as being very real and challenging. What makes Pleckgate unique is that our success is not just our academic achievement; Pleckgate is a supportive and caring community, where everyone is committed to supporting your child. The most important thing for you and your child is to not worry but to talk to staff if they have any concerns.

As Headteacher, I believe in high expectations for every student and will never settle for anything less. Please continue to support the school by reinforcing respect for our school ethos with your child over the summer break, particularly the importance of high standards of attendance, punctuality, uniform and behaviour. Please note that all students should attend school wearing the new school uniform, including blue trousers or blue skirt with the school logo. The only exception to this is when your child has PE on their timetable, students should attend school in their PE kit and will remain in their kit all day, to avoid close contact in the PE changing rooms.

I would like to take this opportunity to offer my most sincere thank you to all students, parents and staff who have supported the school this year and wish everyone a restful summer break.

Yours sincerely

Mark Cocker



Covid-19 Home-School Agreement

At Pleckgate High School our children's mental health, wellbeing and safety is of paramount importance to us. In order for us to make school as safe as we can as children return from the beginning of June we have had to make changes to our learning environments and have introduced new routines and protocols. These changes mean that school will seem very different for the children when they return. As always, we will do our utmost to create a happy and welcoming school, whilst maintaining as safe an environment as possible. The following agreement between us will help to protect all our children, their families and our whole school community.

In order that we can maximise safety for our children, families and staff it is vital that families and school agree to work together by agreeing to the following protocols.

The family will seek to/ensure their child is aware of the following:

- Discuss the importance of social distancing in school with children before they return to school.
- Being outside at social times reduces risk. Students must bring a warm, waterproof coat to school with them every day, along with a school bag, large enough to carry their equipment.
- Drop children off as close to the school gates as possible. Avoid gathering at on school grounds at drop off/pick up times.
- Ensure that children remain at home if they display any covid-19 symptoms i.e. Fever, cough or chest tightness, myalgia, fatigue and dyspnoea ([see guidance](#))
- Students wash their hands on arrival in school and parents actively teach their child hand washing techniques ([six steps to hand-washing](#)). Parents must inform us of any allergies or conditions which may make regular hand washing problematic
- Teach children the 'catch it, bin it, kill it' technique for good respiratory hygiene.
- Ensure that as a family you continue to follow all government guidance on social distancing and mixing with people outside your family unit.
- Strictly adhere to the designated drop off/pick up time allocated.
- Contact school by 8:30am each morning if a child is not attending that day.
- Ensure that all book bags, school bags, bikes, scooters and all other resources remain at home.
- Children who have packed lunches may bring a lunchbox which will be stored in their school bag.
- Where possible and safe to do so, encourage your child to walk/cycle in to school to avoid congestion. Try to avoid public transport where possible see [safer travel guidance for passengers](#)
- Follow the rules put in place by school that only one adult (if absolutely necessary) can attend pick up and drop off and if siblings (not attending school) need to be present during this time they must remain next to the adult, and not mix with others.
- Follow Government recommendations that state that best practice is for children to shower on their return from school and wash children's uniform regularly to limit cross contamination.
- Apply sunscreen, if necessary, before children come to school and provide a sun hat for use in school.
- Provide children with their own water bottle and healthy snack daily should they require one.
- Be prepared and available to collect children from school within 30 minutes at all times should they become ill.
- Be contactable at all times by providing us with an immediate emergency contact telephone number.
- Follow all guidance communicated in the 'Re-opening Plan'
- Prepare all children for their return to school by discussing these points and making them aware of all the changes to their normal school day. In particular, there may be large portions of the day where children remain in one classroom, and teachers move to them. These areas will be zoned and have staff designated to provide supervision to that zone. During a teacher change over, students are expected to remain in their designated seat at all times and



wait quietly for their teacher to arrive. Not adhering to these expectations would constitute a breach of the school behaviour policy.

- Where there is no alternative but to arrange face to face meetings with a parent/carer, only one person plus an interpreter should attend.
- **Any disposable face coverings** that staff, children, young people or other learners arrive wearing should be placed in a refuse bag. **Any homemade non-disposable face coverings** that staff or children, young people or other learners are wearing when they arrive at their setting must be removed by the wearer and placed into a plastic bag that the wearer has brought with them in order to take it home. The wearer must then clean their hands.

The school will seek to:

- Provide as safe and secure an environment as possible for all children.
- Assign students to year group bubbles and minimise contact with other bubbles in school.
- Adhere to social distancing guidance as much as possible
- Support students emotionally and physically with changes in routines and arrangements
- Ensure that cleaning and hygiene routines are rigorously carried out
- Ensure that all staff work within government restrictions and guidelines both in and out of school.
- Provide parents with resources and information to help to prepare children for their return.
- Provide pastoral care and help with mental health and well-being for pupils and their families.
- Communicate effectively with families via newsletters, letter, text etc.

Together we shall:

- Ensure that our school environment is a safe as possible for all.

(Headteacher)