

The Dorcan Academy

St. Paul's Drive
Swindon SN3 5DA

Telephone: 01793 525231

Facsimile: 01793 431461

Email: enquiries@dorcan.co.uk

Headteacher: Mrs S Bareham MBA GRSM

September 2020

Dear Parent/Carer

We are really looking forward to having everyone back in September and wish to assure you that we have taken every necessary step to minimise the risk of the virus to students and staff and to ensure that school is as safe as it can be. You can find our full risk assessment on the school website Home page under [Safeguarding](#). We strongly believe that the benefit of students being back in school far outweighs any concerns there may be. That said, it is vital that if your child is feeling unwell and displaying symptoms that they **stay at home** and arrange to take a test as soon as possible.

Please refer to my previous letter, dated July 2020 for all the details about the return, a copy of which can be found on the school website under Information/Headlines. This is a shorter update to remind you of the most important points for the first days back and to update you about the wearing of face coverings.

- **Year 7** start back on Thursday 3rd September at **8:30am** and should arrive at the front of the school (**main reception**) by 8:25am (no earlier than 8:20am). This will be their entrance and exit for the foreseeable future. They will finish at **2:50pm** on this day. As from Monday 7th September, Year 7 will finish at 2:50pm on Mondays, Wednesdays and Fridays and at 3:45pm on Tuesdays and Thursdays. Breakfast will be served from 8am.
- **Years 8 – 11** start back on Friday 4th September at the following staggered start times.
 - **Year 8** need to arrive at the **Student entrance** by 8:25am for an 8:30am start. They will finish at 3pm. Breakfast will be served from 8am.
 - **Year 9** need to arrive at the **Main entrance** by 8:35am for an 8:40 start. They will finish at 3pm. Breakfast will be served from 8:15am.
 - **Year 10** need to arrive at the Student entrance by 8:35am for an 8:40 start. They will finish at 3:10pm. Breakfast will be served from 8:15am.
 - **Year 11** need to arrive at the Student entrance by 8:45 for an 8:50 start. Breakfast will be served from 8:25am. They will finish at 3:10pm on Mondays, Wednesdays and Fridays and 4pm on Tuesdays and Thursdays.

Please ensure that your child arrives **at the specified time** and not too early or late. Breakfast will be served from Monday 7th September. Again, **do not** arrive early if not eating breakfast.

Further to the new government guidelines which have been issued regarding face coverings, as we are not in a 'lockdown' area the wearing of face coverings for us is **not** mandatory at this time, therefore we will not be enforcing the wearing of them. We will of course, keep this under constant review. In classrooms, students will be asked to remove face coverings for ease of communication, as desks have been configured to ensure safe distancing and teaching methods adopted according to government guidelines. Students in Years 7 and 8 will remain in the same classroom for the majority of lessons, and Years 9 – 11 within the same two classrooms based on their pathway grouping, except for option and specialist subjects. The only other movement will be to the dining areas at break and lunch time. In break and lunch venues the same rules would apply as in a restaurant or café, therefore face coverings are not required.

The times that a mask may be considered beneficial is on the limited occasions that students are required to move from their classroom to another room down a corridor or, if we were to hold a year group assembly with all students within the 'bubble'. At these times, students may opt to wear a face covering if they wish. In addition, any student who is **not** taking part in PE lessons is **required** as part of the leisure centre rules to wear a face covering. If your child is travelling to school by public transport, they will need to wear a face mask. Students should not wear masks with controversial or offensive designs.

I realise that the wearing of face coverings is an issue that not everyone agrees on; I have parents who have expressed their concerns about students being made to wear them and also, not being made to wear them, therefore I know that I'm not going to please everyone. I do believe that if at all possible, we should make the return to school as normal and as comfortable as possible for students if it is possible to do so, and we take the safety of our students and staff very seriously.

Students will need to bring all their own equipment; we will be unable to loan items although they will be available to purchase. It would also be really helpful if students could bring their own hand sanitiser as, though it will be provided in every room, the amount required for a school full of children and staff comes at considerable cost so any help would be appreciated. Also, your child may wish to bring their own glue stick to avoid sharing with others.

Students must wear full school uniform. We are aware that there is a delay on some orders with Price and Buckland; if that is the case, we will make allowances if you send in a note of explanation. On days where students have PE (not during the first week back) students should wear their PE kit to school to avoid having to change in the changing rooms where there is limited space. If the weather is cold, they can supplement the PE kit with their school jumper, blazer and trousers if needed. We will monitor this arrangement closely and adapt if needed.

For all other details, please refer to my earlier letter. We will assume that all students will be returning back to school in September unless you have informed us otherwise.

Thank you for your support.

Yours sincerely



Mrs Bareham
Headteacher