

FAQs

Thank you for the prompt responses to the return to school questionnaire for Year 10 and 12 students. The last question invited you to detail issues that most concerned you about the tutorial days in school. Below are answers to your questions, grouped by topic:

Covid-19 Infection Control

Full details of risk management can be found in the [Covid 19 Information for Parents briefing document](#).

Are there any health checks at the start of the day?

Checking temperatures on arrival is not considered an effective way to predict Covid-19 in young people and is not advised in government guidance. Students will be asked on arrival if they or any of their family have developed symptoms or have tested positive for Covid-19.

Please do not send your child to school if they or a member of your household have symptoms as this risks spreading the virus and we will need to send them straight home.

How will you respond to symptoms and /or positive test from staff or student?

We will follow the government guidance section on “What happens if someone becomes unwell at an educational or childcare setting” ([here](#)) as follows:

If anyone in school develops a persistent cough, temperature or loses their sense of smell / taste they will be isolated and supervised by a duty first aider wearing PPE until they can be collected and taken home.

That person should then self-isolate for 7 days at home and will be able to access a Covid-19 test [here](#).

Should the test be negative the person can return to school.

From 15 June, should the test be positive that household should self-isolate and a parent should contact us on 01285 712302 selecting option 8. We will then inform all members of that person’s class who will need to self-isolate for 14 days. Other members of the class-mate’s households need not self-isolate unless they subsequently develop symptoms.

Teaching

How did we decide the groups? How many in a group? Are they in bubbles?

YEAR 10

Feedback from teachers has indicated that Year 10 Option subjects would benefit the most from face to face contact in school. Year 10 Science, English and Maths teachers will be providing more face to face time online on Fridays from 19th June.

The year has been split to allow for a maximum of a quarter of the year group to attend. Each class will therefore have, on average, a quarter of students in it. Students will have their regular teacher if they are available to work in school, or another subject specialists where this is not possible. The maximum class size allowed to respect social distancing is 12 in our largest classroom, however most tutorials are for 8 students or fewer with an average group size of 6.

All students had a free choice on their options, and the tutorials are from subject specialists, so it is not possible to maintain teaching bubbles. It is likely that your child's small tutorial group in the morning will be different to the afternoon group. This is recognised in the government guidance for secondary schools [here](#) where maintaining social distancing and regular handwashing is the mitigating factor to reduce the risk of transmission.

YEAR 12

Feedback from teachers has indicated that Year 12 students would benefit from some dedicated time with their A Level teachers to review progress.

No more than a quarter of Year 12 students will be in school on any one day. Teachers have decided how they would like to split their classes and how many sessions it is therefore necessary to run over the three weeks. In most cases, a third or half of the class will attend a tutorial. Each student will have the opportunity to attend one session for each A Level.

Who else is in school?

Key worker and vulnerable students that have been attending school throughout the lockdown will continue to attend school. They will not be mixing with Year 10/12 students.

In total, around 70 students will be on site each day.

Only the staff required to deliver this provision will be in school. We are minimising the exposure of individual staff in terms of how many students and staff they come into contact with to minimise the risk of contagion.

How will time in school complement remote learning?

The main method of education continues to be remote learning. There will be remote study tasks for students to complete during these weeks at home, in addition to their time in school.

The government are recommending face-to-face support when students are in school, not a resumption of normal lessons. The predominant form of education must remain remote learning as if we were to teach new content this will disadvantage those students who can't attend school. Staff will use the time to go over work covered during the lockdown period and spend time with each student going over topics or content they have found difficult during the last 10 weeks. There will be some tasks set for students to work through whilst the teacher is talking to individuals, but the main focus is a 'check-in' and to maintain the student teacher relationships. A lot of the tutorials will be in a classroom where students are sat at desks 2m apart; some practical sessions (Art, D+T) will be at workstations 2m apart. We are not able to offer any practical PE sessions.

Can we have advanced notice for resources that need bringing in?

All students must bring in their own pencil case complete with pens, pencil, ruler, rubber and calculator; stationery must not be shared and will not be lent. Should teachers wish to see work that students have completed recently (for example Art portfolios) they will indicate this on Show My Homework (for Year 10) or by email (for Year 12) a few days before their session.

Pastoral matters

What sort of pastoral support is in place to support students' wellbeing?

Y10 students have an opportunity to flag any return to school concerns on the check-in survey this week. Mrs Bass, Mr Eckersley or other pastoral staff will speak to all Year 10 students in school who have expressed any concerns or anxieties to see what else we can put in place to support them. Mrs White, or another member of the Sixth Form pastoral team, will have one-to-one discussions with any Year 12 students with any concerns.

Will they have time to see their friends / socialise?

During the staggered break and lunch times there will be a limited time for people to say hello to those not in their own tutorials. The field will be open for students to sit and socialise, but they will be monitored by staff to ensure 2m social distancing.

What will happen if students do not follow social distancing rules?

We trust our Year 10 and 12 students to be socially conscious and self-regulating with their behaviour. The vast majority were before the pandemic. Everyone makes mistakes and has lapses of concentration. We will help students adjust to social distancing arrangements.

However, should students wilfully defy the social distancing rules they will be isolated in the first instance and spoken to by a member of the Senior Leadership Team. Our usual sanctions system (including detentions) is not suitable for these tutorial sessions; however, behaviour that puts the safety of others at risk or defiance of instructions from members of the Leadership Team remain excludable offences.

Please discuss this with your child before they come into school so they understand the importance of social distancing in our school context.

Will my child be expected to wear their uniform?

No, not for these tutorials. However, it will be expected when school opens fully later in the year.

When might school be open for more students, more of the time?

At each stage, we are acting on government advice about the pace of school re-opening. There may be further easing of restrictions before the summer, allowing us to extend provision for Year 10/12 students, or younger year groups, but this is not guaranteed.

It is unlikely that schools will be back to normal in September. We expect to hear more about this over the coming weeks, so will keep you informed when we know more. It is likely that we will be planning through the summer and may not be able to confirm September arrangements until mid to late August.

What will happen for GCSE and A Level exams next year?

The Department for Education (DfE) and Ofqual are currently discussing how the pandemic may affect arrangements for next year's examinations. Given the impact lockdown will have had on Year 10 and 12 students, it is unlikely that examinations will be unaffected. There may be a delay in the scheduling of exams, or the exams themselves may take a different form. Alternatively, there may be an element of teacher-assessment. We simply do not know at present.

What can we put in place to help students catch up/prepare for GCSE and A Level exams?

This is a national problem and the DfE are developing proposals for how to address this. As we do not know what in-school provision may be possible by September, it is not possible to say what we might be able to do to mitigate the time lost for Year 10 and 12 students. We will ensure that our students are no more disadvantaged than their peers across the country.

In the meantime, it is very important that students engage with the remote learning provision. The harder they work at home, the easier it will be to catch them up.

Can we not offer more than this before summer?

We would like nothing more than to enable more students to return to school; however, the government have made it clear that secondary schools are only allowed to have a quarter of Years 10 and 12 in at any one time. We are receiving constant updates from the Department for Education so this will be reviewed if their advice changes.

If the current arrangements continue can we offer more online lessons with students

Yes. We are extending the sessions offered to Year 12 and introducing online tutorials for Year 10 students too. Not all teachers have the broadband access to offer these, but as we are allowed to bring staff back into school these problems can be more easily overcome. Our main challenge over the coming weeks is that teachers will be pulled in different directions, offering tutorials in school whilst also setting work and supporting students at home. This limits the pace at which we can extend virtual tutorials.