

Dear Parents / Carers,

Please find below arrangements for the Autumn Term 2020.

Information in this letter was sent out to all parents on the 17th July. Highlighted in yellow (for ease of reference) are the amendments or additions to our plans following Government guidelines.

Should my child attend school?

All pupils should attend school in September. The only exceptions to this are:

- If your child or a member of your household has symptoms of Covid-19. In this case you must stay at home until a negative test result is received.
- If your child is unwell for other reasons.
- If your child has a medical letter which states that they should not be in school.

Parents should be aware that, due to teaching and learning time missed this year, the school will not authorise holiday requests in the academic year 2020/21.

How should my child travel to school?

School transport will operate as normal. All pupils will be required to wear a face covering whilst using transport. FAQ's about transport will be sent to parents separately.

Where possible, pupils should walk or cycle to school to minimise traffic on site.

Pupils should arrive at the following times for health and safety reasons:

Up to 8:10 am pupils on buses

8:10 to 8:20 pupils by car

8:20 to 8:30 pupils on foot /bike

Pupils will be supervised to enter the school and queue in single file to do so.

When will my child start school?

Thursday 3rd September:

Years 7, 11 and 12 (Year 7 should report to the main hall for 8:30, Year 12 to the main hall for 10:00 and Year 11 should report to their registration rooms for 8:30).

Friday 4th September: Y

Year 7, 10, 11, 12 and 13 (Year 7-12 to report to form classes for 8:30 and Year 13 to attend the main hall for 8:30).

Monday 7th September:

All pupils to be in school for 8:30 and report directly to their form classes.

How will the school day be organised?

The school day will start at 8:30am and end at 2:50pm for years 7-11, with a lesson 6 running for those in sixth form - these are normal school hours. We will run the timetable as normal so that we can ensure a broad and balanced curriculum as specified by the guidance. This will mean that pupils will move between classes to be taught in specialist rooms and by specialist teachers. However, students will be organised so they only come into contact with their year group or, for some years, half of their year group. These are called contact groups.

For the foreseeable future, we will not be running registration periods but instead will extend Lesson 2 and 4 to enable us to have a staggered break and lunch system. Students will only have break/lunch with their own year group to avoid mixing contact groups. This does mean that these breaks will be reduced to a 15-minute morning break and 35-minute lunch break.

Pupils will be supervised in the canteen during this time and the area will be thoroughly cleaned between sittings.

What is the school doing to mitigate risks?

The school will publish a Risk Assessment on the school website at the start of the term for parents' perusal. Entrances and exits to school will be designated and staggered as practicably as possible. The school will continue with its one-way system and pupils will be supervised too in their movement around the school. All pupils will be expected to walk around the site in single file and must not touch another pupil in line with guidance.

After much consideration and following Government guidance the Governors have requested that pupils and staff wear a 3-layer face covering when entering and exiting the school grounds, and, when moving around the school building. As an environmentally friendly school we would urge families to ensure any face covering is **reusable**. Pupils are welcome to source their own, but the school will have a supply for those who don't. Once the school has issued a pupil with a facemask the pupil must then ensure they follow the hygiene guides and bring a covering to school each day. The school cannot facilitate pupils arriving and expecting to collect a facemask daily.

Pupils will be required to wash /sanitise their hands regularly and as follows:

- entering the building
- entering the classroom
- leaving the classroom
- entering the canteen

- leaving the canteen
- leaving the school building
- after visiting the toilet

Prior to using a work space, pupils will be provided with a comfort pack to sanitise their area and will be asked to do this again when they finish using that work area. This is in addition to the strict cleaning routines that the school will undertake throughout the day.

Where possible all desks will face the front and pupils will distance within classrooms. Pupils will be placed in seating plans to make tracing easy, should the need arise. Where facing the front is not an option (e.g. IT rooms) screening has been installed.

What will my child be taught and how?

Pupils will receive specialist tuition in all subjects studied. Teaching will resume in line with the school's 'teaching and learning' and 'assessment and feedback' policies.

All staff have contingency plans for blended learning should we face a further period of disruption to normal schooling.

Guidance is yet to be received for practical subjects, but the school will ensure it works within the parameters this sets out.

For the first month, no practical activities will be undertaken except for Art where there is no option for written work.

PE delivery will take place and where possible this will be outside. It will be minimised to fitness activities that require no contact or equipment in the first instance.

My child has additional needs – what support will they be given?

Support and Intervention classes will continue and where identified the support of an assistant.

We understand that for pupils with **serious** medical conditions this is a hugely anxious time. Mr Richard Young, (Assistant Headteacher) and his team, will be in contact with parents over the next week. If you have a child in Year 7, 10, 11,12 or 13 who falls into this category and you have not heard from his team by Wednesday 5pm. please contact the relevant Head of Progress (<https://ypant.co.uk/pastoral-support/>)

If you have a child in other year groups who fall into this category and have not heard from his team by Thursday at 5pm please contact the relevant Head of Progress (<https://ypant.co.uk/pastoral-support/>)

Pupils with restricted mobility should arrive and leave school in the normal way. All pupils who fall into this category should have a driveway pass. If you think your child needs a pass and you do not have one then please call us on Tuesday or contact us on (admin.ypantcomp@rctcbc.gov.uk)

What should my child wear and bring to school?

All pupils will be expected to bring the correct equipment into school as the school will continue with its 'no loan' policy.

This should include: Pens, pencils, pencil sharpener, eraser, ruler, protractor, compass and calculator. For those studying Art a separate list will be sent to pupils via email

Staff will collect in books for marking when needed and return them to learners.

Any lesson handouts will be given to pupils for them to keep and will not be shared between learners.

Uniform

All pupils except Year 12, will be expected to be in full school uniform and must adhere to our uniform policy which can be found here: <https://ypant.co.uk/uniform/>

For the first two weeks of school, we allow Year 12 to wear their own clothes until they are certain that we are the correct setting for them.

This year, the school has run the uniform shop internally without parental help. Thank you for your patience whilst we adjust to doing this – it is a mammoth task with a school our size!

If you are still waiting for items from the uniform shop, then please do not worry. We will be lenient with school logoed items as we know we are still waiting for some lines to arrive. Please use the uniform@ypant.co.uk email should you need to contact us regarding uniform.

On the days where pupils have PE, they should wear navy or black full length jogging trousers to school (no leggings), trainers, the Y Pant PE white polo shirt and a school jumper. All clothes should be washed daily to minimise the spread of Covid-19.

As mentioned above, pupils will also need a 3-ply face covering for use in and around the school.

Behaviour

The school has always set high expectations for the standard of behaviour. These high expectations will be all the more important under the current circumstances, as I'm sure you will appreciate.

No school can tolerate any form of behaviour which compromises the health and safety of students and staff. As such, we will need to operate a much firmer tolerance level.

Please discuss with your child the need to follow our rules, they are there for everyone's safety. Most of our students are excellent at adhering to school rules, but for those who don't, there will be stronger consequences from September, which is something that we, you and them would much rather avoid. An amended school behaviour policy, which takes Covid-19 into consideration, will be uploaded onto our school website over the weekend.

Catering

The school canteen will be open for a selection of foods at **lunch time only.**

Pupils will **not** have the opportunity to purchase food and drinks prior to school starting or at break time and so should bring a snack.

Due to the shortened break and lunches, we recommend that pupils bring in their own packed lunch whenever possible in the first few weeks. A reduced menu will be offered for those who wish to purchase food but the school will operate a no cash policy therefore all accounts must be paid online.

All pupils should bring in a filled water bottle.

Important Dates

We have planned a full range of parents' evenings, etc. for the forthcoming year. All dates will be sent out in the new term and will be updated on our website by 1st September.

Given the circumstances, the format of these events may change so please bear with us and check the website and ParentMail messages regularly.

Pastoral Care and Wellbeing

We place great emphasis on the pastoral support we provide our young people. Whilst pupils will not visit their form tutor for at least the first half-term, we will be increasing the use of student wellbeing questionnaires to identify those pupils who require support.

If you as parents are concerned about anything then please contact your child's Head of Progress, emails can be found here: <https://ypant.co.uk/pastoral-support/>

Staffing

In the new term we are looking forward to welcoming Mrs Penny Mickelsten (English), Mr Peyman Mollaei (Maths), Mr Marcus Hicks (Maths) and Mr Jon Manuel (Maths). All four have already made a great impression on us as a school and we are delighted to welcome them to the team.

Mr Craig Beckett will be Temporary Assistant Head of Year 7, and Miss Rhoda Hodnett Temporary Assistant Head of Year 8.

Mr Liam Jones will be moving to the Year 10 team and work alongside Mrs Natalie Gallafant as Assistant Head of Progress.

Partnership Working

We have always been blessed with having supportive parents who value education and the impact it can have on the life chances of our young people. This translates into pupils who are ready for learning, well equipped and really delightful to work with - despite the occasional hormonal moment!

We aim to always make our expectations clear; our values are simple and revolve around compassion, fairness and respect. This partnership between school, home and pupil is needed now more than ever. As such please continue to work with us in keeping your child, our staff and our respective families safe as this virus continues to rumble through society.

I hope this gives you all the information you need for your child's return. The follow documentation will follow:

1. School Transport FAQ's
2. A pupil 'Return to School Handbook' prepared by Mr Alun Davies (Assistant Headteacher) – will also be emailed to students. Please encourage your child to read it.
3. A copy of the school rules – also emailed to pupils. Please discuss the importance of these with your child.

Have a lovely bank holiday weekend and as always please get in touch if you have any queries or concerns.