

Friday, July 10, 2020

Dear Parent/Carer,

I hope this letter finds you well. I am writing to you as the end of term approaches, to keep you updated on developments at school. This has been one of the most unusual terms I have ever seen and I'm sure that you have found this too. Now we prepare to break for the summer, I look forward to September and restarting for all pupils.

Start of term plans

We have now had guidance from the government, which states that schools will reopen to all pupils in September, with some protective measures in place. We have worked hard to ensure that we will comply with the government guidance issued last week, whilst minimising the impact on the educational experience of pupils. We can confirm that there will be no major changes to the curriculum that pupils will follow.

We will make some changes to the timings within the school day and the groupings of pupils, to ensure they stay together as a year group. To this extent, there will not be a 'breaktime' as normal and instead a split lunchbreak, to ensure the whole school does not mix socially across all year groups; however, this means the lunchbreak will begin earlier in the day. Due to this, **the school day will end at 2.50pm**, rather than 3.10pm, for pupils in Years 7-10 (Year 11 details below). Rest assured, that pupils will **still receive their 5 hours of lesson time, as well as their 30 minute tutor period**, as this has not changed. The only thing that has disappeared is the breaktime of 20 minutes, as we cannot have the whole school mixing across year groups.

As we need to ensure year groups remain together, we are not going to be able to continue with our vertical tutoring for the time being and will have to place pupils back into year groups for tutor time. We hope that this will only be a temporary arrangement.

First week of term arrangements

In order to ensure pupils know what they are doing when they return, we are going to open the school in the first week of term as follows:

Day	Who comes in	What times
Monday 7 September	Year 7	8.15am - 2.50pm
Tuesday 8 September	Year 7	8.15am - 2.50pm
	Year 8	8.35am - 11.15am
	Year 9	12pm - 2.50pm
Wednesday 9 September	Year 7	8.15am - 2.50pm
	Year 10	8.35am - 11.15am
	Year 11	12pm - 2.50pm
Thursday 10 September and going forward	All year groups	Normal times Year 7 - 8.15am - 2.50pm
		Years 8-11 - 8.35am - 2.50pm

Please ensure that your child arrives at the allocated start times. **Attendance is compulsory from September**, unless your child is displaying symptoms of Covid-19, in which case you should keep your child at home and follow the national guidance. From Thursday 10 September onwards, the usual school day start and end times will apply and there will be no more staggered starts.

No early finish on Wednesday Week Bs

Thank you also for your understanding when we were open for the early finishes on Wednesday week Bs for staff training. This **will not** continue into September 2020, as we are aware that all teaching time is important and we cannot finish early. The normal finish time of 2.50pm will take effect from September for years 7-10. Year 11 will have their extra revision period – details below.

Free School Meals

As you may be aware, the Department of Education have agreed to fund vouchers for families eligible for FSM over the summer. These have been ordered and you should receive them during the first week of the holidays. This will be a lump sum payment of £90, per child. This is to cover the 6 weeks. Further guidance is available here: <https://www.edenred.co.uk/reward-recipients/Free-School-Meal-Vouchers/> As school will be closed over this summer period, any queries should be directed to Edenred. Details are on their website regarding contacting for help.

New Year 11 students

As current Year 10 pupils move into their final year of school, as Year 11, it will be important that they are attending the extra periods of lessons we put on for them, in order to prepare for exams. This will be even more important this year, to make up for the time that has been missed this term. The extra period runs from 2.50pm-3.50pm on **Tuesdays, Wednesdays and Thursday afternoons each week**. Timetables issued to pupils will mark this clearly when the lessons take place and where, just as they do for all other lessons.

Safeguarding

As school will be closed over the summer holiday period, you may be worried about a child or young person, believing they are at risk of harm. If you are, please call 01752 668000 or email gateway@plymouth.gov.uk to report your concerns. If it is outside of normal working hours call Plymouth Out of Hours Service on 01752 346984.

The Gateway service is made up of multi-agency professionals who can give you advice, information and support. You can also contact the [NSPCC](https://www.nspcc.org.uk) if you want to talk to someone about your concerns and get advice.

Staff farewells

As term draws to a close, we say farewell to several colleagues, who are moving on to pastures new. These are Miss Fields (English teacher), Miss Mills (Deputy Headteacher), Mrs Davis (RE teacher), Miss Gessey

(Science teacher), Miss Bouyer (Science teacher) and Mrs Eerebout (Maths teacher). Also, Mrs Heale is retiring, who has been a TA here for many years. We wish her all the very best for her retirement.

I can confirm that we are fully staffed from September, with subject specialists, which in light of the current situation is pleasing.

I do hope that you and your family manage to have a good break over the summer. I will write to you over the summer, prior to the start of term, to keep you updated on the reopening.

Kind regards,



Lee Sargeant
Headteacher