

Keyworkers

Dear XXXXXXX

I am writing to advise plans for the wider opening of our secondary phase from Monday 15th June. Our primary phase has now been operating successfully for over a week with EYFS and Year 1 children happily and safely back in school. We have also been pleased to accommodate Year 6 children from Castle Academy who will join us in Year 7.

Our positive experience of using a 'bubbles' model in primary, whereby a small group of children stay together and are supported by the same staff team, means that we are going to use the same model in secondary. This limits the interactions between people in school which, along with social distancing, will be key to operating safely.

Bubbles allow us to limit the interactions of staff and pupils, creating isolated groups that give us the opportunity to lock and close bubbles down should we feel the need. This gives both staff and pupils the peace of mind to return and feel safer.

Do not leave home if you or someone you live with has any of the following:

- **a high temperature**
- **a new, continuous cough**
- **a loss of, or change to, your sense of smell or taste**

Our secondary phase has never been fully shut as we have had between 30-50 children with us on a daily basis. We have used our experience gained over the past 12 weeks to establish our cleaning routines, ensure that classroom spaces enable social distancing and meet safety standards.

I understand that this has been a very difficult time for our community and I hope that the structure of returning to school - even on a rota system - for Years 10 and 12 will help our children and young people feel that we are starting to return to some sense of normality. If you require any additional information or support please do not hesitate to get in touch.

What is the current national situation?

On 20th May 2020, the government took advice from SAGE about whether it is safe for schools to start welcoming more pupils back onto the school site. Following this advice, the Government asked secondary schools to offer some 'face to face' interaction with pupils in Years 10 and 12 during the latter half of the summer term.

We have therefore completed a comprehensive risk assessment of all aspects of our organisation and our plans ensure that we keep our staff, pupils and our wider community as safe as possible. This risk assessment has been reviewed by the Local Advisory Board of Governors and ratified by Trustees of EMAT.

What will happen from June 1st until the summer holidays if my son or daughter is in Years 7, 8, 9?

Pupils in Years 7, 8 and 9 will **not be returning to school before September 2020.**

These pupils will continue to learn from home and work will be provided through Edulink.

What will happen from June 15th if my son or daughter is in Year 10?

Your son/daughter will be invited to school on a specific day of the week only, this is to ensure we have no more than 20% of the year group in at any one time. The information below sets out the specific days, start and finish times and the rooms that pupils will work in.

What will happen from June 15th if my son or daughter is in Year 10 and has attended as a Key worker/vulnerable pupil?

If your son/daughter is attending school under the keyworker provision already, then they will remain in the Key worker bubble and will not join the Year 10 or 12 provision. This will ensure bubbles are not mixing with other pupils.

The school day

The school day has been planned to facilitate all bubbles entering the school building at separate times, this will ensure that the bubbles do not mix and potential risk is minimised. Teachers will guide pupils through the content of the day.

Arrival at school

Pupils must enter the school building via the main front entrance, hand sanitiser will be available for all pupils to use.

Children must directly and quickly walk up the green staircase and straight to the classroom listed below, this is where they will register.

Children must enter the building only at the time allocated in this letter.

Socially distant waiting areas will be placed outside the front of school for pupils who arrive earlier than required.

Departure from school

You will see below that each group of pupils has been given a specific departure time for the day. It is imperative that pupils exit out of the building and disperse quickly, we cannot release each bubble until it is clear to do so. If you normally collect your child please can you be prompt and give a specific area for your child to wait to ensure that reception remains free of pupils.

Lunches

Lunch will only be provided for children who qualify for free school meals, all other children must bring a packed lunch and adequate water for the day, as communal drinking fountains are not available.

School uniform

Clean school shirt, Trouser/Skirt and School shoes are required. Pupils should not wear a school tie or blazer, as these are cleaned less often. Standards around uniform will be maintained and enforced.

Equipment

Pupils must bring, pen, pencil, ruler and calculator, and an appropriate reading book.

Pupils will not share resources, nor be allowed to share each other's equipment.

Further information on the steps and measures to keep staff and pupils safe can be found here <https://nia.emat.uk/2105/covid-19-information>