

August 2020

Dear Parent/Carer

We hope you have had a lovely summer and managed to enjoy some quality time with your children and family during this uncertain period, we are looking forward to the return of all students on Wednesday 2<sup>nd</sup> September. I wanted to write to you to provide you with some detailed information on our arrangements for the autumn term. As you are aware all schools across England have been provided with guidance on opening schools in July, we have worked hard throughout the summer to prepare for the return of all students as safely as possible. We have tried to limit change as much as we can to support our students in transitioning back to school, a lot of the changes are related to staff and environment, our risk assessment will be updated regularly and available for parents to view via our school website.

Below are a few immediate points to note for our return in September and I will write to you again within the first week if any further information is required. Please check our website and social media platforms regularly as this will be updated often.

### **School Day**

We have kept our school day the same, 8:30am to 2:50pm (sixth form is 9:30am to 2:30pm), only adjusting the timings within the day in terms of scattered breaks for children. Our term dates remain the same. The LA SEND transport will be in touch to discuss how your child will be transported to school and what the expectations are around transport. We will look at the bus groups in terms of a potential positive Covid 19 case and which bubbles will be impacted in terms of isolation if this was to unfortunately happen.

### **Classes**

Your child's class teacher will be making contact prior to return to just either introduce themselves or to have a catch-up discussion over this next week (if they have not already done so). Please do provide any questions to them you have or email school and we will do our best to answer them. All children will be learning and socialising within their class bubble, and if they come into contact with another bubble for a particular reason this will be tracked and traced in terms of a potential covid 19 case.

### **Uniform**

Students will be expected to come to school in uniform, we ask that this is washed daily and that parents support their child in maintaining positive hygiene habits. We are asking if any parents have old uniform that is no longer of use to donate it to school to assist us in providing additional uniform pieces to parents who may need help with this. If you may need help with additional uniform, please do contact school in the first week back and ask to speak to Suzanne Smith or Paula Thornton regarding this matter.

Prepare and flourish

Children are to only bring to school their lunch, water bottle with water in for their desk, this can come in a bag which will be kept under their desk, nothing else is to be in the bag and mobile phones are to remain at home as we are unable to look after them in school in our bubble set ups. If a phone is brought into school we will not be held responsible for its loss or damage as we have requested that they are not brought onto the premises at all until further notice, students will not be permitted to use a phone on the premises at any time and will only use our landline phone to make contact home if required.

## **PE**

We will be offering PE as normal in our timetable, on PE days please ensure your child wears their PE kit to school and they will return home in it, this is to avoid changing at school. We will let you know your child's PE day in the first week we return.

## **Covid 19 response**

We all need to play our part to ensure that we keep our whole school community safe! If your child displays ANY of the symptoms of Covid 19 or is generally unwell that you keep them at home. If you think they display Covid symptoms, then please take them to be tested. I cannot stress the importance of this enough, as if a child comes into school unwell and then tests positive for Covid 19 it will mean nearly half the school remaining at home in isolation for 2 weeks. We want to avoid this as much as possible so please do be extremely vigilant of your child's individual health and keep us informed. I will issue another letter on this on the first day back.

## **Remote Learning**

In case your child or members of the school have to self-isolate we will be reverting to remote learning to educate your child at home. We have worked hard to ensure that our onsite and remote learning is seamless and that they can access a high-quality education offer across both school and home. We will provide detailed information on how this will work in September and provide all the information you need to support your child. We are also looking at IT access at home for learners and ensuring ALL students have this if expected to work at home.

## **Contacting School**

We still have our three curriculum offers – Informal, Semi-formal and Formal and each of these will form a bubble. Each bubble has been assigned a member of pastoral staff. We request therefore that if you have any concerns regarding your child that you contact the member of pastoral staff assigned to your child's bubble. The staff are as follows:

Informal bubble (Miss Gamble and Mrs Woodford) – Pastoral contact is Mrs S Smith

Semiformal bubble (Miss Patel and Miss Mahmood) – Pastoral contact is Mrs Hamill

Formal bubble (Mrs Booth and Mrs Burrows) – Pastoral contact is Miss Towers

Post-16 bubble (Mrs K Smith) – Pastoral contact is Mr Kendrick

## **Breakfast**

We have joined the government's National School Breakfast Programme. This means that we can provide free breakfast to all our students. This also includes students who are not in school for example if they are self-isolating.



Delivering the National School Breakfast Programme

## **Lunch**

We will continue to offer hot lunches, these will be ordered in the morning and brought packaged to your child's classroom for them to eat at lunch time, this is to limit the cross contamination. You can provide a packed lunch as normal, please ensure that your child can open and access their food independently as much as possible, we are aware for some of our students this isn't possible so staff will wear PEE equipment to support this where required. Please contact Heather Sweeney if you require further information on lunches for this term.

## **EHCP Annual Reviews**

Due to the ongoing COVID situation all annual reviews will be held virtually this term. Information will be sent out prior to the review and help will be given to allow you to access the meeting.

If you have questions or concerns about your child's annual EHCP review please contact Paula Thornton [pthornton576@crosshill.blackburn.sch.uk](mailto:pthornton576@crosshill.blackburn.sch.uk).

## **Behaviour Expectations**

We will work hard daily with our students on the behaviour expectations surrounding Covid 19 and keeping themselves and others safe. We will send out a home school agreement for you and your child to agree to in the first week we return, please can I ask that you support us with this as it is a complex matter to keep your child and others safe. If a child is choosing to intentionally not follow this, we will have to consider how to work together to address this successfully as obviously, we are working in very tight guidelines and need to keep the majority of our community safe.

## **Parent visits/pick up**

Unfortunately, we will be unable to have any face to face meetings or visits from parents to school without prior appointment currently. So please ensure that you phone school to arrange this if required and also remain outside the school building at all times during pick up and drop off.

We look forward to welcoming you all back in September!

Please don't hesitate to contact us if you have any questions or concerns.

Yours sincerely

**Lidia Cattrell**  
**Headteacher**