

Maghull High School



Return to School – September 2020

Sixth Form

Parental Guide

Introduction

We are looking forward to welcoming all students back to school in September for the start of the new school year. Following the release of the latest government guidance for educational settings, we have been planning and preparing to ensure the site is 'Covid-secure' and ready to welcome back all students. For the vast majority of children and young people, the benefits of being back in school far outweigh the low risk from coronavirus, and the steps we have taken reduce risk still further. In this guidance booklet, we will set out what measures we have in place to create an inherently safer environment, where the risk of transmission of coronavirus is substantially reduced. It is important that parents read this guidance in conjunction with our risk assessment and discuss these safety measures with their son/daughter before they return to school. It would also be helpful to review the other related documentation, which can be found on our website.

Attendance

School attendance is mandatory again from the beginning of the autumn term and all students are expected to attend each day; sixth formers must adhere to the sixth form dress code. Whilst we understand that some students and parents may be anxious about the return to school after such a period of absence, it is vital for all young people to attend if we are to minimise the potential longer-term impact of the pandemic on their education, wellbeing and wider development.

At any given time, a small number of students may be unable to attend in line with public health advice because they are self-isolating and have had symptoms or a positive test result themselves; or because they are a close contact of someone who has been diagnosed with coronavirus. Students who are self-isolating will be expected to access their learning remotely through Firefly and will be additionally supported by Zoom sessions and MS Teams subject teacher live messaging to ensure continuity of learning.

Shielding is due to pause from 1 August, so students who have previously been shielding will be able to return to school. Any student who remains under the care of a specialist health professional may need to discuss their care with their health professional before returning to school and parents and carers need to advise us as soon as possible if this is the case. Our regular absence notification procedure still applies; parents and carers should contact the school on the first day of absence to provide the reason for their son/daughter not being in school.

NHS Test and Trace

If we are to continue to control the virus, it is essential that we as a school community support the NHS test and trace programme. We need to be ready and willing to book a test if we are displaying any of the symptoms of coronavirus. Students must not come into the school if they have symptoms, and must be sent home to self-isolate if they develop symptoms in school. All young people can be tested and tests can be booked online through the NHS [testing and tracing for coronavirus website](#), or ordered by telephone via NHS 119 for those without access to the internet.

School must be informed immediately of the results of any tests carried out. If a student tests negative, if they feel well and no longer have symptoms similar to coronavirus, they can stop self-isolating and may return to school. They could still have another virus, such as a cold or flu – in which case it is still best to avoid contact with other people until they are better.

If a student tests positive, they should follow the '[stay at home: guidance for households with possible or confirmed coronavirus \(COVID-19\) infection](#)' and must continue to self-isolate for at least ten days from the onset of their symptoms and then return to school only if they do not have symptoms other than cough or loss of sense of smell/taste. This is because a cough or anosmia can last for several weeks once the infection has gone. The ten day period starts from the day when they first became ill. If they still have a high temperature, they should keep self-isolating until their temperature returns to normal.

If a student has been in close contact with someone who develops coronavirus symptoms or someone who tests positive for coronavirus, they must self-isolate for fourteen days.

Travel to and from school

The government guidelines are that if at all possible, travel should be on foot, by bike or in a private car. If this is not possible, public transport may be used but social distancing should be adhered to. Students are required to wear masks or face coverings on our school buses. These will need to be double bagged on arrival at school and must be stored hygienically in the student's bag for the remainder of the day. If students are using disposable face coverings, they will need one for the return journey, as these will also need to be double bagged before being safely disposed of on the school site. Please see the school bus information leaflet on our website for further guidance on how to travel safely on public transport. Government guidance on public transport can be found here:

<https://www.gov.uk/guidance/coronavirus-covid-19-safer-travel-guidance-for-passengers>

Drop off and pick up by parents

Parents must not enter the site or come into the building at any time without prior arrangement. We would ask parents driving their son/daughter to school to drop them off and pick them up on either Liverpool Road South or Old Racecourse Road and allow them to walk in. This is to avoid the gathering of too many people on roads near to the school, which could hinder social distancing on entry to the site. Sixth formers are free to leave the site once they have no more timetabled lessons for the day and carry on working independently at home. Sixth form students must enter and leave via the sixth form gate. They will be able to leave the site at lunchtime and are to sign in and out through main school reception.

Organisation of the day

Students will be following their normal timetable in September and arrangements for the first day are detailed in the student guidance booklet. In order to minimise movement around the school and crossover of year group bubbles, each year group will be allocated a zone for lessons, with allocated classrooms where they will spend much of their day, and an outdoor space. Sixth form classes will be largely based in the sixth form block and will only move to access specialist teaching spaces as appropriate. Sixth formers will be encouraged to use the cafeteria in the sixth form common room throughout the day, to facilitate effective social distancing at lunch and break times. Student accounts will need to be topped up using ParentPay.

All teachers and other staff can operate across different classes and year groups in order to facilitate the delivery of the school timetable. Government guidance states that adults working in schools should try and keep their distance from pupils and other staff as much as they can, ideally two metres from other adults. To support social distancing, staff will be teaching from the front of the classroom and students will usually be seated in rows facing the front of the room. Assemblies and large gatherings will not be able to take place for now but will instead be delivered through tutor groups.

Curriculum and lessons

Each student will be accessing their full timetable from the start of the new term; it is essential that we embark upon a programme of personalised intervention to address any gaps in their learning as soon as we possibly can. To continue to support their transition back into school and their wellbeing in general, students will experience our Reconnect Curriculum through designated Personal Development time. As teachers will be moving from room to room to teach in year group zones, it will be important that students take ownership of their books and resources and remember to bring them to school on the correct day. Their school bag must be large enough to carry the books and equipment needed for each day.

For individual and very frequently used equipment, such as pencils and pens, it is recommended in the guidance that staff and students have their own items that are not shared; each student should bring a pencil case with the necessary equipment in their school bag. Classroom based resources, such as books and other equipment, can be used and shared within year group bubbles; these will be cleaned regularly or rotated to allow them to be left unused and out of reach for a period of 48 hours (72 hours for plastics) between use by different year groups.

Extra-curricular opportunities

At Maghull High School, it is our aim to provide a rich programme of extra-curricular activities which enhance the personal development of our students; this is particularly important in the wake of lockdown, as it will undoubtedly help our students to rebuild friendships and social engagement. There may be some adaptations to our normal offer but providing hygiene and social distancing measures are adhered to, students from different year groups will be able to take part in the same activities. Government guidance states that singing, wind and brass playing should not take place in larger groups such as school choirs and ensembles, or school assemblies; peripatetic music lessons will still be available.

Hygiene

Students will be required to wash their hands for twenty seconds at regular intervals throughout the day and will be reminded to do so. Disinfectant spray, tissues, lidded bins and hand sanitiser will be accessible in every room. We expect everyone to practice good respiratory hygiene at all times: **'Catch it – Kill it – Bin it'**.

We have introduced a rigorous timetable of cleaning across the whole site, with an emphasis on frequently touched surfaces and toilets. Government guidance states that different groups do not need to be allocated their own toilet blocks, but toilets will need to be cleaned regularly and we aim to do this up to eight times a day. Classrooms only have the necessary furniture needed to ensure that contact with surfaces is minimised and students will be allocated a place in each classroom and must remain in that seat. Doors will be wedged open where possible and windows will be open to ensure effective ventilation.

If someone becomes ill in school

If your son/daughter or anyone in your household shows any signs of a new continuous cough, a high temperature, or a loss, or change in, their normal sense of taste or smell, they **must not** attend school and we would appreciate it if you could inform us of this at your earliest opportunity. If your son/daughter falls ill while they are in school, we will call you to collect them immediately. **Please inform us if you have recently changed your contact details.** If they are displaying any of the aforementioned coronavirus symptoms, they will be isolated in the O'Kane Building, supervised and supported by a senior member of staff until your arrival. They will be brought to the Sixth Form car park to be taken home.

If a case of coronavirus is confirmed in school

If a case of coronavirus is confirmed in either a student or a member of staff, we will contact our local health protection team who will carry out a rapid risk assessment. This will aim to establish who has been in close contact with the person during the period that they were infectious, and ensure they are asked to self-isolate. The health protection team will work with schools in this situation to guide them through the actions that need to be taken and will provide definitive advice on who must be sent home to isolate.

Local lockdown arrangements

If schools have two or more confirmed cases within fourteen days or an overall rise in sickness absence where coronavirus is suspected, they may have an outbreak. They will work with their local health protection team who will be able to advise if additional action is required.

In some cases, health protection teams may recommend that a larger number of other students self-isolate at home as a precautionary measure – perhaps the whole site or year group. However, this will not be considered except on the advice of health protection teams.

In consultation with the local Director of Public Health, where an outbreak in a school is confirmed, a mobile testing unit may be dispatched to test others who may have been in contact with the person who has tested positive. Testing will first focus on the person's class, followed by their year group, then the whole school if necessary, in line with routine public health outbreak control practice.

In the case of a local or school lockdown, we will continue to provide daily remote learning via Firefly and MS Teams and maintain regular contact with our parents and carers throughout.

Supporting emotional wellbeing

We appreciate that every student will have had a different experience during their time away from school. Some may be experiencing a variety of emotions in response to the coronavirus outbreak, such as anxiety, stress or low mood. Some may struggle to readjust to the routines and expectations of school. With this in mind, we have expanded our pastoral support team and our staff have accessed relevant training to support every student on their return. Our Phoenix Centre will continue to support the wellbeing of all students, operating an appointments system. Students have access to wellbeing support through Kooth, our recommended emotional wellbeing support platform. If they haven't already set up an account with Kooth, they can do so here: <https://www.kooth.com/>

Behaviour

In the interests of everyone's health and safety, it is more essential than ever that your son/daughter adheres to our expectations of behaviour and conduct. A copy of our Behaviour and Attitudes policy can be found on the school website.

Frequently asked questions

1. Does my son/daughter need hand sanitiser and tissues?

Students may bring their own in their bag but every classroom will have a hygiene station with sanitiser, tissues and disinfectant spray.

2. How will social distancing work in school?

Whilst in their year group zone students do not need to stay 2m away from each other but they should avoid close up face-to-face conversations. They should avoid sharing each other's equipment or food and must stay 2m apart from students in other year groups. They must also stay at a 2m distance from school staff where possible. All students will be reminded about social distancing measures on a regular basis and must follow them for the safety of students, staff and the community.

3. What about access to drinks?

We would expect every student to bring their own water bottle to school, preferably labelled with their name. Water will still be available in the dining room and we would remind students that fizzy drinks are not allowed in school.

4. What if my son/daughter is cycling to school?

We do have bike sheds but students must remember to bring a secure lock. It is important that they maintain a two metre distance from anyone from a different year group when storing and collecting their bike. Sixth formers should store their bikes in the bike shelter next to the main school building.

5. Can my son/daughter wear a face mask in school?

Government guidance states that Public Health England does not recommend the use of face coverings in schools. This evidence will be kept under review. They are not required in schools as pupils and staff are mixing in consistent groups, and because misuse may inadvertently increase the risk of transmission. If you do wish your son/daughter to wear a face mask/covering in school, please let a member of the sixth form pastoral team know. Students should only wear plain face coverings and must not touch the front of their face covering during use or when removing it.

6. How long will these measures last?

We have planned these measures to last for the first half term in the first instance. We will continue to reflect on what we are doing and adapt to any changes in public health and local community health. This is still a very volatile time, but we will continue to adhere to government guidance. Your health, your family's health and the health of our community is very important to us.

7. I have further questions

If you have any further questions or concerns, please direct them to school@maghullhigh.com and we will get back to you as soon as we can.