

Dear Parents/Carers

Welcome back to the new term. I hope you all had a wonderful summer break and your child is refreshed and raring to start back to school.

Exam Results

I would like to congratulate our Year 11, Year 12 and Year 13 students on their results. Behind all the headlines of exam chaos and government u-turns, we must not forget the fantastic achievements of our young people who worked hard throughout their courses and lived with the uncertainties about their futures during lockdown. Their resilience is commendable and we are pleased so many have achieved the grades they need to move onto the next steps in their education.

Staffing Update

We would like to welcome the following new staff to our team! Some of them have been with us since the spring term, but joined us during the school closure.

- Mr Challenger - Assistant Caretaker/Minibus Driver
- Miss Hands - Teacher of Science
- Mr Pollentine - Teaching Assistant
- Miss Marshall - Teacher of Science
- Mr Saluja - Teacher of Maths
- Mr Strakis - Teacher of DT
- Mr Donkin - Teacher of PE
- Miss Pitman - Teacher of Science

Key Dates

Please see [here](#) for an updated document containing the key dates and information for the upcoming academic year. Please note that these dates are subject to change, particularly as we respond to the ever-changing COVID 19 situation, e.g. it is unlikely that we will have any parental meetings at school during the first half term. We will endeavour to provide alternative arrangements if the situation does not allow us to meet face-to-face and we will ensure you are informed in

advance of any changes.

The school calendar is also published on our website. The link can be found [here](#).

Return to School

We have been busy putting in place the final preparations to ensure the school is COVID-secure before the full return to school of all our students.

In my letters to you in July, I outlined the arrangements for our return to school. I have included these again in this letter and also added any updates or changes made over the summer holidays.

Tuesday 1st and Wednesday 2nd September have been designated as **Planning and Preparation Days** for teachers; therefore, students are **not required** to attend school on these days.

Induction Days - Thursday 3rd and Friday 4th September

The induction days are an opportunity to welcome students back to school; ensure they are familiar with their new surroundings and the new routines; and receive their timetables.

The times shown below are when students are expected to be in school. The gates for each year group will open 15 minutes before the start of each session. Students can only enter school during their 15 minute time slot. Students will be expected to wear full uniforms and bring their equipment on these days.

Day	Year	Time	Gate	Meeting Point
Thursday 3rd September 2020	Year 7	0900-1500	East Gate	Cage
	Year 9	0930-1330	West Gate	West front
	Year 11	1000-1400	East Gate	Cage
Friday 4th September 2020	Year 8	0930-1330	East Gate	Cage
	Year 10	1000-1400	West Gate	West front
	Year 12 and Year 13	Please see detailed information here		Year 12 - Cage Year 13 - West front

Full Return to School - Monday 7th September

On Monday 7th September, the school will reopen full-time for all students. Arrival and departure times and gates will be staggered to ensure we keep year contact groups separate. Entry and exit will be through the East and West gates; the side gate will be closed so we can control the flow of students.

Please note that we have made some changes to the arrival and departure times published in July. The up-to-date information is as follows:

Year	Time	Gate
Year 7	0835-1450	East
Year 8	0845-1450	East
Year 9	0845-1450	West
Year 10	0855-1500	West
Year 11	0855-1500	East
Year 12 and Year 13	Please see detailed information here	

Principles for a Covid-Secure Reopening

When producing our plans for a full reopening to all students, we have worked according to the following principles which adhere to the national guidance:

- 1) "Contact groups" consisting of a full year group and the mixing of classes within a year group are necessary to ensure full coverage of the curriculum in a meaningful way.
- 2) Different year group cohorts will be kept apart, i.e. Y10 will not mix with Y7.
- 3) Movement around the school site will be kept to a minimum.
- 4) Busy corridors, entrances and exits will be avoided.
- 5) The full curriculum and normal timetable will operate to allow a smooth transition to "normality", i.e. when all restrictions are lifted.
- 6) Normal school routines, rules and expectations will be in place, i.e. uniform, behaviour.
- 7) We will plan for a return to either a full or partial lockdown and be prepared to revert to blended learning if needed.

Return to School Arrangements

The following arrangements

- **The normal school timetable will operate.**
- **Year groups** will remain **separate**.
- Year groups will remain in one **designated teaching area** of the school for most of their teaching to avoid mixing with other year groups.
- Students will only move from their areas for **specialist teaching**, e.g. PE, DT.
- There will be **staggered arrival and departure times**.
- **Tutor period** will be **staggered** between mornings (Ks3/KS5) and afternoons (KS4).
- There will be **staggered breaks and lunches**.
- There will be **zoned areas** of school for arrival, departure, break and lunches for different year groups.
- All students will remain on site during **lunchtimes**.
- As lunches and breaks will be staggered; students will not be allowed in the corridors so as not to disturb lessons.
- A **oneway system** will operate across the school.
- Students will be encouraged to **wash their hands** as often as possible and expected to **sanitise** their hands on entering the building and classes, and when using school equipment.
- Students will be expected to ensure good respiratory hygiene by promoting the '**catch it, bin it, kill it**' approach.
- There will be **on-site cleaning** throughout the school day. Frequently touched surfaces, such as door handles, taps and toilet seats will be cleaned regularly. A full clean will take place at the end of each day.
- **Bells** will **not operate** to avoid congested corridors.
- All **windows and doors** will be **open** during the day to provide as much natural ventilation as possible.
- **Desks** will be **forward facing**.
- Students should only be in **school corridors** when **absolutely necessary**, i.e. as a route to toilets, classrooms, reception.
- Students should only **enter rooms** in which they are **timetabled**.
- Students should maximise their time **outside** during **recreational times**.
- **Social distancing** will be encouraged in **communal areas**.
- **Staff** will maintain a **distance of two metres** away from students and each other.

School Uniform

We are returning to full school uniform from this week.

Uniform plays a valuable role in contributing to the ethos of our school and setting an appropriate tone. It also gives students a sense of community and belonging. It is, therefore, important that students adhere to and respect our rules on school uniform.

We want our students to make a positive start on their return to school this week. We have not changed the school uniform, only clarified the rules in place and clearly setting out our expectations. Please ensure that you child returns to school wearing the correct uniform and adhering to **this guidance**.

Equipment

Welsh Government guidance states students should bring their own resources to school, Please could you make sure students come equipped with the following in a pencil case:

- Pens
- Pencil
- Ruler
- Rubber
- Sharpener
- Purple Pen
- Glue stick
- Highlighters

Face Masks

There has been a great deal in the media over the last week about face masks. The Welsh Government requires all schools and local authorities to make their own decision on the compulsory wearing of masks.

We will be following the advice of the Newport City Council which is as follows:

Face Coverings will not be required in Newport Secondary Schools unless an individual school risk assessment determines that pupils within communal areas are unable to safely socially distance over a prolonged period of time. The use of face coverings in all Newport secondary schools will remain under review as the pandemic continues and advice may change depending on infection rates.

We have put a number of measures in place to mitigate against transmission of COVID 19 in communal areas. For the induction days, we are going to observe how these measures work and consult with students and staff before deciding whether to mandate the use of face masks. If students and staff wish to wear face masks in either classrooms or communal areas, then we will respect their choice to do so. In anticipation of the possibility of compulsory use of face masks, we would advise you to purchase a mask for your child in case it is needed in the future.

Behaviour

High standards of behaviour are imperative to ensure a safe learning environment and allow students to maximise their learning potential. It is vital that students follow the new rules and routines. Students who deliberately breach COVID 19 mitigation measures will be excluded from their contact group until we can ensure other students' safety.

Attendance and punctuality

We expect all our students to return to school this week if they are fit and well. We will, as usual, be monitoring attendance and we will contact parents if students aren't attending school. Please contact your child's progress leader if you are concerned about sending your child to school.

As we have so many staggered start times, students need to make a concerted effort to be punctual. Parents will be contacted if students are regularly late as this may undermine our

attempts to keep year contact groups separate.

Illness

Under no circumstances should students attend school if: they feel unwell with any of the identified COVID-19 symptoms (they should remain at home and self-isolate and arrange a COVID-19 test); they have tested positive for COVID-19; or they live in a household with someone who has symptoms of, or has tested positive for COVID-19.

If a student becomes ill or develops COVID-19 symptoms during the school day, they will be supported in a designated isolation room and you will be contacted to collect them. Please make sure you or someone in your family is available to attend school to pick up your child if they fall ill.

Test, Trace and Protect

We will be complying fully with the Welsh Government's Test, Trace and Protect strategy. Further information can be found [here](#).

It is vital if your child has COVID-19 symptoms or tests positive for COVID_19, that you inform the school so we can implement further procedures. We have put together a simple [guide](#) to what to do if your child is in this position.

Workbooks

Students will be provided with new workbooks in their first lesson. Students' books will stay in school wherever possible not to increase contact with other environments. We will be maximising the use of Google Classroom for the completion of home learning tasks.

Lunches

Students will need a packed lunch for the induction days. Students will be able to buy deli bags from the canteen from Monday 7th September. Due to restrictions, we are not yet in a position to offer hot lunches.

Visitors

We have to control the number of people on site and therefore, no visitors are permitted on site unless they have a prior appointment (these will only be arranged if they are essential, all other meetings will take place on the phone). Parents will need to book an appointment to meet a member of staff.

Chromebooks

Please could all students who have borrowed school Chromebooks return them to school when they return for their induction session. We need to upgrade these devices to work on our new IT system.

Payments

In line with many businesses, the school will no longer accept cash payments whilst Covid 19 restrictions are in place. In addition, the machines in the canteen cannot be used to up student lunch accounts. However, all of these payments can be made online by following these [instructions](#).

Reviewing our Arrangements

We will be reviewing our risk assessments and procedures weekly and expect to adjust as we become more familiar with the impact of our measures on safety and education. We will keep you up-to-date with any changes

Communication

I will continue to communicate with you regularly. Letters will be emailed directly to you, placed on the school website and published on our social media accounts. If you need to contact the school, please call us on **01633 224490** (lines are managed 0800-1600 Monday to Thursday and 0800-1530 on Friday) or email info@stjuliansschool.co.uk.

And finally ...

I am delighted that we are returning to school. Our young people need their education. No doubt, there will be challenges ahead over the next few weeks and months. However, I am optimistic that by working together, we will navigate this uncharted territory to provide the best possible educational experience for your child.

I look forward to working with you in 2020/2021.

Yours faithfully



Mr D Curtis
Headteacher / Pennaeth

