

NEWSTEAD WOOD SCHOOL

"creating opportunities for success"

Headteacher: Mr Alan Blount MA, BSc, QTS



26 August 2020

Start of Term Arrangements

Dear Parents and Carers,



I hope that you and your family have had an enjoyable summer break and that your daughter/son is looking forward to returning to school.



We are really looking forward to welcoming back all our students, to seeing how much they have grown and developed in the last five months and to welcoming our new Year 7 and Year 12 students to our school.



Much has been reported over the weekend in the media about children and young people deserving to be back in school and this being the best place for their education and wellbeing, which is a view shared by the school and our staff. We have been preparing for the return of all students into school over a number of months and will be following government guidance to put in place the necessary risk reduction measures to ensure the safety of our students, families and staff.



Our site team have completed a range of works around the school site in support of us re-opening next week and we are also now in a position to outline a number of changes and the arrangements and procedures we have put in place ready for re-opening.

We recognise that many of our students have not attended school since March and know that every individual will have different feelings about returning to school. If you or your daughter/son are worried about returning to school, local support and resources are available and can be accessed via this website link <https://nhsfreeyourmind.co.uk/back-to-school-parents-teachers/>.



We have written a guide '[Returning to Newstead Wood School](#)' which details all of the pertinent information you and your daughter/son should need in readiness for return. I hope that it provides you with the necessary information for you to feel secure in the knowledge that we have put in place procedures and practices to keep the school community safe.

We recognise that the guidance is subject to change, and we will keep up to date with the current guidance and implement procedures and updates as necessary.



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The key points are summarised below:

Timings of the school day

We have made slight changes to the end times for the school day to accommodate a staggered departure from school. These will vary by year group and day. Students are reminded of the importance of arriving at school on time and not coming on site more than 5-10 minutes before the start of the school day to ease congestion and reduce mixing. Students will not be able to enter the buildings until the bell rings each day.

Students will be expected to use outdoor spaces at break and lunch.

Timetable and Bubbles

We have rewritten the timetable to reduce movement around the site. For the majority of lessons, students will stay in the same room/zone, and the teachers will move to them. Students will remain in their bubbles throughout the school day. Break and lunch will be in bubbles and students will use outdoor spaces and entrance/exit points specific to their year/bubble.

Hand sanitiser

Additional wall-mounted hand sanitiser units are now in place across the site.

Symptoms of coronavirus and self-isolation

Our guide contains information on the most important symptoms of coronavirus and reflects the change requiring those with symptoms and those who test positive to self-isolate for 10 days.

Catering Arrangements

We have confirmed arrangements with Caterlink and have designed our new Autumn Term 'grab and go' menu. We will be using the Main Hall and Gym for lunchtimes and students will have lunch in their Year Group Bubbles. The hall will be cleaned before the next year group come down.

Visitors

We are restricting the number of visitors on the school site in the interests of the health of our school community. Parents and carers are requested to make an appointment to see members of staff and to contact the school by phone or e-mail before coming on site.

Extra-curricular activities

We pride ourselves on the range of trips and visits we run at Newstead. However, as our staff and students adjust to a new way of working, we do not expect to introduce extracurricular activities until towards the end of September. When these do take place, they will be in Year

group/Bubbles. Further details will be shared with students, parents and carers nearer the time.

Face Coverings

We will always follow the advice provided by the government and Public Health England with regards to the steps we need to take to minimise the risk of COVID-19. The evidence is very clear that transmission within schools is minimal and the steps that we have taken over the summer to prepare for reopening cover everything that is required.

There is currently no requirement for students to wear face coverings within the school as we are not in an area of localised lockdown. Should students wish to wear them however, they will be allowed to do so in corridors and communal areas of the school. There is no need to wear them in classrooms or during lessons as the measures we already have in place with regards to social distancing, cleaning and personal hygiene already provide the greatest benefits against transmission of the virus.

Should they wish to wear them, pupils are required to provide their own face coverings, and bring a sealable bag to store them in when not in use.

Students should of course wear face coverings on public transport when travelling to and from school.

We ask all parents and carers to have a conversation with their daughter/son before the start of term and to ensure students are familiar with arrangements. The key reminders below are intended to support these discussions and your preparations for the new school year.
All students will have an assembly on the first day where we will outline these arrangements and answer any queries and questions they may have.

Some useful reminders

Please ensure you and your child are familiar with the following:

1. The arrangements for the first day of term – start times and where to go.
2. The start and end times of the school day.
3. The zone in which your daughter/son will be based and designated entrance. Roomings will be specified on their timetable which will be issued next week.
4. The break and lunch areas for your daughter/son's year group and changes to our lunch arrangements.
5. The importance of handwashing when arriving at school and handwashing and good respiratory hygiene throughout the school day.
1. Avoiding unnecessary physical contact with other students and maintaining social distancing.
2. Not mixing with other year groups within school.
3. Your child's journey to school (avoiding public transport where this is not necessary).
4. The practical arrangements for your child to be collected from school should they become unwell during the school day.

5. Uniform and equipment required for the start of term and school year.
6. Loading your daughter/son's WisePay account before the start of term.
7. Ensuring we hold up-to-date medication in school for your child where this is required.

Thank you in advance for your support throughout next academic year and during the autumn term as we introduce some fundamental changes to the way we work as a school.

Yours sincerely



Alan Blount
Headteacher