

SPALDING GRAMMAR SCHOOL

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Headmaster: S M Wilkinson BSc

28 August 2020

Dear Parents

I am writing to you in advance of the return to school next week, further to my letter of July (which is also available in the Communications section of the school website). There has been a huge amount of work done over the summer break to support the 'new normal' from September. Zones have been created with barriers to clearly separate them, some previously non-classrooms converted into classrooms (with the necessary purchase of new furniture), hand sanitiser stations placed outside every classroom, additional infrared stations placed at entrances to the School, and all IT installations in classrooms brought up to a common standard to support teachers moving from room to room, to list just a few.

There are a few additional points:

- Year 7, on arrival on the first morning (Thursday 3 September), will be directed to the Hall for a welcome Assembly; Year 12 will be similarly directed to the Sports Hall. Years 11 and 13 should report straight to their Tutor Room – that information will be sent to them by email
- On Friday 4 September, Year 8 should report immediately to the Hall; Years 9 and 10 should report to Tutor Rooms – again, that information will be emailed to them
- On all subsequent days, all students should, on arrival at school, move immediately to their own recreation zone. Specific information will be given to students across the first couple of days
- Given that students are limited in outside space and will not have access to indoor facilities until 8.30am, students should not arrive at the School early in the mornings. The gates will not be opened until 8am.
- On arrival, all students will be required to sanitise
- I have heard nothing more from Transport at this time regarding buses, and so I must assume, for the moment, that the services that will be operated will be normal. I do know, however, that Brylaine will be running some shadow services to its public buses, some split services, and some school-only services. Detailed information, for those who use Brylaine buses, is available on their website
- One specific point that I ask parents to reinforce with their children is that students should not be walking to the High School to catch buses; the only designated pick up points for Grammar School students are on the roads adjacent to the School, or at the Bus Station in Spalding
- Where possible, I would encourage students to arrive at school by other means than public transport. We have separate bike stations in each zone, and so each Year group will have its own place to park bikes. This seems like an ideal opportunity to reinforce the message of the importance of locking bikes when on site

Face Coverings

As I write this letter, the Government has released new guidance on the matter of face coverings. As this school is not in an area with "widespread transmission", the Government has not placed any requirements upon us, but has left it to us to make our own decisions; however, there is clear advice (<https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/face-coverings-in-education/face-coverings-in-education>).

We have distinct zones in the School, and each zone houses one Year group bubble. Each zone has its own classrooms, entrances to the building, corridors, recreational space, and toilet facilities; the opportunity for students to mix with others outside their own bubble is, essentially, zero. We have also laid out each classroom with desks facing forward and, in every classroom where it is possible (which is the vast majority), created a zone at the front of the room where the teacher is able to maintain a 2-metre distance from any student. There are no communal areas (that serve multiple zones) in the School (other than the main boys' toilet block, which will be restricted in use), and all corridors are zone-specific.

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I am confident in the measures we have in place, including hand-sanitising (which is recognised as an effective method of prevention of spread), which every student will be required to do on arrival at school, when entering any classroom, and when leaving to break or lunch. In accordance with Government guidance, therefore, we will not be making the wearing of face coverings compulsory. However, if a student wishes to wear one, that will be allowed.

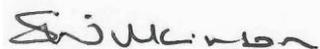
Students who wish to wear a face covering will need to provide their own, but these should be suitable for a school setting – they should be plain in colour; they must not be heavily logoed nor feature inappropriate graphics. They should also be standard face coverings (in that they cover the nose, mouth and chin (and only the nose, mouth and chin), with loops round the ears) and not bandanas, balaclavas, or other improvised items. Students will also need to provide a suitable receptacle to store the covering when it is not being worn; they must also be aware of how it should hygienically be worn and removed (guidance available about half way down the page at <https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/face-coverings-when-to-wear-one-and-how-to-make-your-own/face-coverings-when-to-wear-one-and-how-to-make-your-own>).

In the very likely event that the Government adjusts its guidance, or if local circumstances change, we shall of course revisit our position again.

Finally, I remind parents that any student who displays symptoms of COVID-19 at home must not be sent to school; they should remain at home until they have been tested, with a negative result.

I look forward to the School reopening next week and to having the students back once again.

Yours sincerely

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'S M Wilkinson', written on a light-colored rectangular background.

S M Wilkinson
Headmaster