



Parkside Community College

The best in everyone™

Part of United Learning

Friday 28th August 2020

Dear Families

Preparations for Re-Opening

I do hope that you are all well and that everyone has managed to enjoy some of the good weather this summer when it has visited us.

In today's letter I want to focus upon two key issues which I know are high on everyone's minds: face coverings and the shape of the school day when we return.

Face coverings

I am conscious that this has been a topic of debate around school reopening and in society more widely in recent weeks and I have been holding off contacting you about this as I was confident that the guidance would be reviewed. As many of you know, it has now been reviewed.

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**. We are very happy for students to wear such face coverings in communal areas and recognise that some students will feel more comfortable wearing a face covering as they move around the school.

However, this will require everyone to behave sensibly and responsibly and anyone who we feel is misusing a face covering will be required to take it off.

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. National guidelines from the Government make it clear that they should not be worn in lessons.



Led by the United Learning Trust in collaboration with Cambridge Academic Partnership.

Executive Head Teacher: Craig Morrison

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Should they wish to wear them, students are required to provide their own face coverings. Please note that face coverings must be plain in appearance, with no writing, logos or motifs. Students must keep their face covering with them at all times and not allow others access to it. Students should of course wear face coverings on public transport when travelling to and from school.

Do contact us should you need to raise any aspect of this communication around face coverings with us and we will reply after the weekend. Contact us via enquiries@cap.education and it will be passed on to the appropriate Head of Year or the Head of 6th Form.

Shape of the school day

When we wrote to you at the end of the summer term we advised you that we would be running the full school day and curriculum, but that we would be looking to stagger breaks and lunchtimes in order to minimise the chance of contact between year groups.

We did not share with you a model for this at the time because we were evaluating the merits of different solutions.

We now believe that we have a strong model for the school day once we restart and we share this with you below. I would stress however that this will be kept under review and if it does not work well with regard to managing social distancing we will of course look at alternatives.

	50 mins	70mins, includes 20 min break	50 mins	50mins	30 mins Lunch or Tutor	30mins Lunch or Tutor	50mins	50mins
	8:40 - 9:30	9:30 - 10:40	10:40-11:30	11.30-12:20	12.20-12.50	12.50-13.20	13.20-14:10	14:10-15.00
	P1	P2	P3	P4	Lunch A	Lunch B	P5	P6
Y7		Break 10:20-10:40 Hall/Quad			Lunch - Hall	Tutor		
Y8		Break 09:30 - 09:50 Hall/Quad			Tutor	Lunch - Hall		
Y9		Break 09:30 - 09:50 FP			Lunch - FP	Tutor		
Y10		Break 10:20 - 10:40 Parker's/FP			Tutor	Lunch - FP		
Y11		Break 10:20 - 10:40 Parker's/FP			Tutor	Lunch - FP		
Y12		Break 10:20 - 10:40 Eden			Lunch	Lunch		
Y13		Break 10:20 - 10:40 Eden			Lunch	Lunch		

Some of the key features of this model are as follows:

- There is a slightly later start of 08:40 and we ask that students try to arrive on time and not well before this as we will not be able to allow access to the building. Students who arrive before this will be asked to line up in the front playground (Years 7 - 9).
- Some of our staff have found their drop-off time at local nurseries made later and this is one reason for the slightly later start.
- Lessons are 50 minutes long as before and students will start the day straight into lesson 1 rather than going to tutor time as before.
- Initially, students will start by being lined up in the front playground (Years 7 - 11) and will be escorted in at the start of the day. On these days and subsequently, students will be supervised as they use the hand sanitiser stations on entry.
- Once we have got established in new routines we will ask all students to enter immediately, sanitise their hands and walk straight to their room and to their desk, with corridors supervised. A one-way system is in operation at the Melbourne Place site.
- Lesson 2 is 70 minutes long because it includes a twenty minute break either at the start or end of the period. Year groups will be separated from each other in different areas in each of these slots and some students will be able to access Parker's Piece, which will be supervised.
- Year 11 students will not be allowed to leave the site for the morning break.
- There will be a 60 minute period in the middle of the day where students will either be in tutor time or on lunch, for 30 minutes each. This reduces the numbers accessing a grab and go lunch at any one time and service will be from either the Hall or the kiosk in the Front Playground (FP) - please see the table above.
- 6th Form students will have a tutor time timetabled in a lesson slot within the working week, so they will have an hour for lunch, either at the Eden Centre or off-site.
- Year 11 students will be allowed to go off-site for lunch as before but this will be a privilege and will be withdrawn should anyone misbehave or return late. There will be a system for signing out at Mud Lane at the end of lesson 4.
- Year 7 students will be escorted to lunch 10 minutes early to give them 40 minutes to begin with and we will reduce this back to 30 minutes once we are confident they are used to the routines.
- The main day ends 10 minutes later at 15:00. For those students in Years 10 -13 who have additional lessons beyond this, they will also finish 10 minutes later, so lesson 7 will conclude at 15:50.

I hope that the above explanation is helpful.

What can we expect next?

There will be further information coming to you on Tuesday, following the bank holiday weekend. There will be another letter from me looking at arrangements more widely, together with a link to a new video presentation which I hope will be a useful way of explaining our approach to you further.

We will also be sending you a separate letter with more detail about catering arrangements on Tuesday.

With very best wishes

