



CKE/SPO  
10 August 2020

Dear Parents and Carers

### Revised information for the re-opening of school in September 2020

The last few months have been incredibly difficult in many ways and so it is a relief that we are looking forward to welcoming all students back to The Hart School in September 2020.

Over the past weeks the senior leadership team has spent time preparing for a safe opening using the guidance the government has given us, to give our students a broad and balanced curriculum.

As you can imagine, this will mean significant changes to the way that we work. We will continue to implement changes to the building and premises over the summer break in order to make our environment safe and welcoming.

### Returning to school

I have already written to you to explain the staggered start to next year but by way of reminder:

Date(s)	Activity	Students required to attend
Tuesday 1 <sup>st</sup> September Wednesday 2 <sup>nd</sup> September	Teacher Training Days	No Students in school
Thursday 3 <sup>rd</sup> September Friday 4 <sup>th</sup> September	Y7 & 12 Transition	Only Year 7 and 12 in school
Monday 7 <sup>th</sup> September	Return for all students	All students in school

In order to maintain the safety of all staff and students we have made amendments to our behaviour policy and compliance strategy. Students will be kept in year group bubbles and these bubbles will be allocated rooms in different parts of the school; they will also be allocated a separate break out spaces.



This will start with a staggered arrival and departure of year groups in order to maintain students in their bubbles.

Year Group	Start	End	Entry gate	Bubble
7	0830	1500	Main	Humanities block (D)
8	0835	1505	New	Science block (C)
9	0840	1510	Rear	English block (A)
10	0845	1510	Main	Maths block (B)
11	0850	1510	Pedestrian	Design block (F)
Sixth Form	0905	As per timetable	Pedestrian	Sixth Form block and specialist rooms

### **Attendance expectations and Government Guidance**

In March when the coronavirus (COVID-19) outbreak was increasing, we made it clear that no parent or carer would be penalised or sanctioned for their child's non-attendance at school.

When we return in September, it will be vital for all children to return to school to minimise as far as possible the longer-term impact of the pandemic on children's education, wellbeing and wider development.

Missing out on more time in the classroom risks students falling further behind. Those with higher overall absence tend to achieve less well. This means that in September we will be expecting all students to return to school and we will be following our established procedures to promote good attendance.

For more information on government guidance for students' attendance in September please click on the link below:

<https://www.gov.uk/coronavirus/education-and-childcare>

### **Uniform & Equipment**

Students will be required to wear full uniform including blazer, tie and polishable black shoes. Government guidelines state uniform does not need to be washed more often than usual. Please remember that our school skirt is now compulsory for all female students should they choose not to wear tailored trousers.

It is also a requirement for students to bring a fully stocked pencil case in order to be prepared for learning. Due to health and safety regulations, we are not able to distribute stationery. We will supply all students with a fully equipped pencil case to start the year, this will include all basic equipment and a calculator. Please ensure that your child keeps this fully stocked.



## **Bubbles and locations**

When students arrive on site, they will be allocated a classroom and an area of the school which will be their 'bubble'. The reason for this is to maintain social distancing guidelines and avoid additional risk. In Years 7 and 8, most lessons will be in the same classroom. In Years 9 to 11 there will be some movement, but this will be within their bubble.

As students will be within a classroom environment, normal behaviour protocols will resume. We will have zero tolerance with any student that is deliberately not following health and safety and/or social-distancing guidelines.

## **Support for your child**

We know that our students have been working remotely for a significant period and we recognise that there may be an increase in social, emotional and mental health needs. Your child's form tutor; Student Support Officer; Head of Year and our safeguarding team will be at hand to provide additional help. We will also spend our first day back with all students (Monday 7 September) in tutor groups, working on a focused 'returning to school' programme.

## **Transport**

We understand that students use a variety of methods when arriving at and leaving the school site. The advice from the government is to try to reduce the number of people on public transport. Students should try to avoid using public transport. School transport and public transport will continue to operate with Covid-19 restrictions.

Our School Transport Service routes will continue to run as normal for the forthcoming academic year. There will be one bus allocated to each route, as usual, and no staggered provision. Students are strongly advised to wear face coverings and to use the same seat, if possible. Hand sanitiser will be available on the bus and students should make use of this when boarding and disembarking.

At the end of the School day, students will be allowed onto the bus using the rule, "Furthest away board first." The School Transport Service are issuing a letter containing more information to schools very soon and this will be passed on to all our stakeholders. More information about the School Transport Service can be found here:

<https://www.staffordshire.gov.uk/Education/Schooltransport/homepage.aspx>

We will operate a room in each bubble for students arriving early because they are travelling with siblings/family members in different year groups and after school as they wait to board their bus.



### **Break times and food**

Children need breaks from learning and social time with their peers. Students will continue to have a morning and afternoon break, but they will be reduced in time in order to allow for transition between lesson.

We are working with our caterers to continue to provide a range of hot and cold food, this will be provided from service points in each of the bubbles. We are currently working with our catering provider, Aspens, to implement an online ordering service. All payments will have to be made via ParentPay and no cash will be taken in school. We will update you on this when we have more information.

### **Frequently asked questions**

I am sure that you will still have some questions. We have created a Frequently Asked Questions document that can be found here:

<https://www.hartschool.org.uk/wp-content/uploads/2020/07/Student-Return-September-FAQ.pdf>

We are really looking forward to seeing our students in September and getting things back to normal as soon as possible.

Thank you for your continued support.

Yours sincerely

**Mr C Keen**  
Principal