



28 August 2020

Dear Parents and Carers,

I hope you have managed to have a positive summer break as lockdown restrictions have slowly been lifted in many areas. We are really looking forward to welcoming Nobelians back to school next week.

Following on from my last letter, we have finalised the arrangements for September following the DfE guidance for the full school opening. That guidance can be found here:

<https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/actions-for-schools-during-the-coronavirus-outbreak/guidance-for-full-opening-schools>

There has been a lot of discussion in the media this week about the use of face masks. We will be following the current government guidance that says face masks are only required in schools if an area goes into a local lockdown. However, if students wish to wear face masks in communal areas, they may do so provided these are worn properly and are appropriate for a professional setting.

The key points of our plan are below and remain broadly similar from my last communication with you in July. Please do take the time to read through them and discuss with your son/daughter.

Arrangements for the first week:

- Wednesday September 2nd Staff CPD day
- Thursday September 3rd Year 7 in school all-day. Year 12 induction.
- Friday September 4th All students return to school

Year group bubbles:

We have not reduced our curriculum offering and all students will continue to receive our full range of subjects, with adjustments made where necessary to allow the majority of subjects to be taught in a classroom-based setting.

Students will be kept in year group bubbles. This means their teaching will predominantly take place in one area of the school with minimal movement around the school.

All classrooms have been set up in forward facing rows and staff will maintain a 2 metre distance from students and teach from the front. KS3 will remain in the same classroom for all subjects apart from PE whereas KS4 and 5 will move to ensure they are taught in sets and option groups.

Each year group has colour coded routes to follow around the school and these will be explained to students on the first day. Assemblies will run virtually to allow students to still receive weekly contact from their Head of Year.

Start times and entrances/exits:

Start and finish times have been staggered for all year groups. Unfortunately, we cannot have students on the site outside of these times, unless they are attending a prearranged extra-curricular club or intervention session.

When students arrive, they will go straight to their designated year group area and classroom. Members of the Senior Leadership team will be on hand to direct students. At the end of the day, classroom teachers will walk their class promptly off the site.

On Friday 4th September, students will need to arrive at their allocated start time. Please see start times below.

The start and finish times for each year group are:

	Year 7	Year 8	Year 9	Year 10	Year 11	Year 12 and 13
Start	8.25	8.30	8.35	8.40	8.50	8.50
Finish	2.55	3.00	3.05	3.10	3.15	3.20
Entrance and exit	Main student entrance	Back stairs in DT	Back stairs in Art and Food tech	Entrance via the doors opposite the dining room	Back stairs DT	Main student entrance

In the first half-term, form time will not run for Years 11-13 who will need to head straight to their first lesson. We will keep this under review and reinstate this as soon as possible.

For Year 7 students who are starting on the 3rd September, please just make your way to the main gates as previously directed and teachers will spend time showing students where to go on the first day.

Lunch and refreshments

Students will remain in their bubbles during break and lunch and KS3 and 4 will have separate break and lunchtimes. Each year group has been allocated a specific playground area and canteen. KS5 students will need to leave the site during break and lunch.

No food will be served before school or during break time. At lunchtime a slightly limited menu will operate during the Autumn term, details of which be found on our school website under *Information for parents*.

Water

All water fountains will be switched off. Students need to bring their own water bottle. Fizzy drinks and energy drinks are not allowed on-site.

Uniform and Equipment

Students are expected to wear full school uniform and this is to be washed regularly. There are restrictions on sharing equipment and therefore students will need to make sure they have a fully stocked pencil case each morning.

As teachers are unable to take exercise books in, students will need to carry these around with them and teachers will be issuing book covers to support students with this.

Please ensure that you check your child's timetable each morning and ensure they have the right equipment and exercise books for school.

PE Lessons

It is crucial for students to remain healthy and therefore we will still be running timetabled PE lessons for all students.

As changing rooms will remain closed, students need to attend school in their PE kit on days they have PE. Again, we will review this as the term progresses.

Increased cleaning and hygiene

Students will be asked to wash their hands on arrival and at frequent points throughout the day. Each year group has a designated set of toilets and all classrooms and communal areas have hand sanitizer dispensers for students to use throughout the day.

Students will need to follow the 'Catch it, Kill it, Bin it' advice for coughs and sneezes and posters are around the school to remind them of this.

We are also conducting an increased cleaning programme where areas will be cleaned between different bubbles of students. Classroom doors and windows will remain open to allow for improved ventilation.

Attendance

From September all students are expected to attend school on a full-time basis.

We ask that if your child or someone in your household shows signs of coronavirus, please keep them at home and inform the school. Anyone who displays symptoms of Coronavirus can and should get a test.

If a student shows signs of illness at school, they will be directed to the First Aid office where they will be isolated until a parent or carer can collect them.

Trips

In line with DfE guidance, no trips will run during the Autumn term.

Visiting the site

To reduce risks, for the time being we are keeping visitors to the site to an absolute minimum. Please email your child's form tutor in the first instance if you wish to talk to a member of staff.

Transport

The government have released guidance on safe travel to and from school and that can be found here:

<https://www.intalink.org.uk/safeschooltransport>

GCSE and A-level examinations for Summer 2021

Ofqual has now published the guidance for GCSE and A level exams in Summer 2021. In some subjects, there has been a small reduction in the course content. Teachers will explain in further details to their classes and we will update you in due course.

Finally, our students have shown superb maturity throughout this period and we expect this to continue when they return to school. Our behaviour policy has been updated to include Social Distancing requirements. These are designed to keep all members of our school community safe and all students will need to adhere to these.

We are aware that this is a big adjustment for students and during the first day back students will have extended form time to ensure that form tutors are able to explain the procedures to students in detail and respond to any worries or concerns that our students have.

The Government have released additional advice and guidance for parents this week and that can be found here

<https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/what-parents-and-carers-need-to-know-about-early-years-providers-schools-and-colleges-during-the-coronavirus-covid-19-outbreak/what-parents-and-carers-need-to-know-about-early-years-providers-schools-and-colleges-in-the-autumn-term>

And here:

[file:///C:/Users/charn/Downloads/2020.08.24%20 BackToSchool Secondary A4Leaflet Eng.pdf](file:///C:/Users/charn/Downloads/2020.08.24%20BackToSchool%20Secondary%20A4Leaflet%20Eng.pdf)

If you have any further questions, please read the FAQ attached to this letter. Any further Covid related enquiries should be directed to our Deputy Headteacher Naomi Rose or our Business Manager Christine Crawley.

Can I take this opportunity to thank the community for the incredible support that they have shown to Nobel throughout this period. We are very excited to return to some semblance of normality and look forward to seeing you next week.

Yours sincerely

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Martyn Henson', written over a thin horizontal line.

Martyn Henson
Headteacher