

Dear Parents and Carers,

The first day back for students is Monday 7th September. COVID-19 has meant that we could not have our usual Year 6 transition events and so we have a staggered start to the year. The year groups given below are the year that your child will be in, in September.

- Year 7 start on Monday 7th September
- Year 8 start on Monday 7th September
- Year 9 start on Monday 7th September
- Year 10 start on Wednesday 9th September
- Year 11 start on Wednesday 9th September
- Year 12 and 13 Start on Monday 7th September

Friday learning will be Community Focused and details of the activities for individual students will be provided in due course.

The students will be participating with a blended learning approach, inclusive of School, Home and Community Based Learning detailed in the letter sent at the end of the summer term and shown again below.

Blended Approach:

As part of our planning for a safe return to the physical school, we have planned a ‘*blended approach*’ which will allow students to access learning safely.

A blended approach combines online, Home based Learning, Learning within the physical school and opportunities for Community Based Learning.

Each year group of students will access learning through the three methods and the table below shows this most simply.

Group	Red	Green	Lilac	Yellow	Blue	Orange
Day						
Monday	PBL	PBL	PBL	HBLL	HBLL	Orange
Tuesday	PBL	PBL	PBL	HBLL	HBLL	Orange
Wednesday	HBLL	HBLL	HBLL	PBL	PBL	HBLL
Thursday	HBLL	HBLL	HBLL	PBL	PBL	College/Work placement
Friday	CBL	CBL	CBL	CBL	CBL	CBL

*PBL – in the physical school. HBLL – online home learning. CBL – Community Based Learning.

Schedule of the school day:

In order to protect and care for the health and safety of members of our school community, we have redesigned the structure and timings of the school day. We have considered a number of factors through this process and have structured the day so that students and staff can travel as safely as possible and avoid rush hour periods.

The timings of the school day are shown in the table below:

Student Arrival & Registration	L1	L2	Social Curriculum Break	L3	Social Curriculum Lunch	Registration Tutorial	L4	School Finishes - Transport
10:00-10:30	10:30-11:00	11:00-11:30	11:30-12:00	12:-12:30	12:30-13-15	13:15-13:30	13:30-14:00	14:00

Learning Methods:

- **Project Based Learning –**

This approach to learning will allow teams of teachers to educate our students, teaching subject specific skills within a ‘theme’ and with an objective to achieve at the end of the series of learning opportunities.

The series of learning activities will be created that lead to an overarching shared goal that the students will work through to produce a final goal.

I have included an explanation of this approach with this letter that will explain the details more clearly.

- **Home Based Live Learning:**

This style of learning will be an extension of the classes offered during the lock down period. We will be using online learning to teach different elements of the curriculum, with a subject specific focus. The session will be delivered live by teachers using the computer and web cam equipment that has been distributed to families. We will be including specific learning that focuses on the use of Microsoft Teams and using the opportunity to further develop the computer literacy skills that are becoming increasingly important for young people as they begin preparations for venturing into the world of work and employment in the years ahead.

Your child will receive a timetable for this learning so that you can plan and support them with access as necessary.

- **Community Based Learning:**

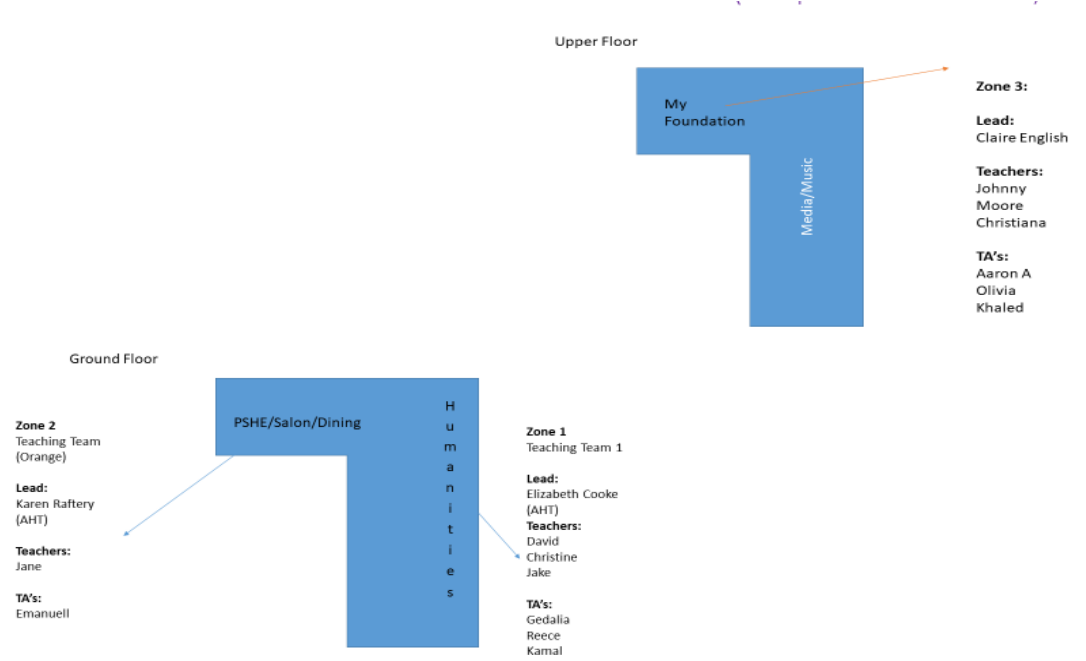
Community based learning will take place on Friday each week and will offer a range of opportunities for students to participate with learning beyond the home and classroom. We will be using this as an opportunity to support our students to engage in activities such as the Green Wood Guild traditional wood working sessions, Tennis, Bike Riding, sessions at Adventure Play Grounds, outdoor forestry skills, fashion design and other opportunities to apply skills that will support successful and safe social reintegration within the community.

Zonal Structure:

As well as minimising the number of students within the physical building each day, we have also sectioned the school into ‘Learning Zones’.

This means that each group will be allocated a particular area, in which they will be based and taught throughout the day.

Teaching & Learning Zones:



We have identified areas that our students can go to should they require extra support, and all areas of learning are spacious and arranged so that social distancing can be in place and contact between different groups minimised. The learning areas are well ventilated and through this design we can allocate toileting facilities to each learning group.

Social Times, Communal Activities and Sanitising procedures:

We understand that transmission of the Covid virus is at the forefront of our minds and the safety of our school community is our top priority.

As such, we have installed new sinks for hand washing and acquired a significant store of sanitising gels and PPE equipment that will be available for use upon return to the physical school.

As our students arrive to school, they will be welcomed at the entrance by a member of staff who will ensure that they wash and then sanitise their hands. We will also regularly clean contact surfaces with anti-bacterial wipes and maintain very high standards of hygiene.

The school will be deep cleaned regularly at the end of each day, with a particular focus on sanitising communal areas.

During learning, students will be prompted to apply sanitising gel and encouraged to wash their hands and dry using a disposable paper towel at various times throughout the day and most particularly during break and lunch activities.

Where possible, our Social Curriculum activities will be facilitated outdoors, with seating and hygiene arrangements in place to respect social distancing during lunch.

I can assure you that all precautions and necessary steps have been taken in order for us all to feel safe and secure within the physical school environment.

Transport and welfare Team:

We have been in touch with the transport departments from each of the boroughs we work with and received their policies and procedures for transporting students. The welfare Team have been in contact with all the transport departments and have arranged this for students who require this service.

Some further information:

Social distancing

We will keep students in their learning groups and zones as much as possible, however during breaks and communal activities we will be working to maintain social distancing. The school is equipped with signage and classroom posters that will help to remind us all of our responsibilities in this regard.

Breakfast:

There will be a variety of options for breakfast, including 'grab bags' so that the students don't need to stand in line for too long waiting to be served. The students will then be able to more effectively socially distance and will of course be guided and supported by staff to collect and eat their breakfast.

Lunch:

Lunch will be provided over two areas, with hot and cold lunches provided both in the dining area and the upstairs flat. Students will be able to eat their lunch in a variety of locations to minimise the numbers of people in any one area.

Other social distancing and safety measures

- The Government has given advice on the wearing of face masks, which they encourage the use of in communal areas outside of the classroom. We will be engaging in continual dialogue with all members of our school community in order to support understanding of their use and our responsibilities in this regard.
- We will be limiting the number of visitors to the school site and have protocols in place to ensure that visitors are socially distancing and adhering to hygiene and sanitising practices upon entry to the school building. Any parents who needs to come onto site should contact the school and arrange a meeting with the relevant member of staff. All parents will need to sanitise on arrival.

- All rooms are well ventilated and where possible, windows will remain open, allowing fresh air to circulate.
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Hygiene

- There will be hand sanitizer in every classroom. Students will sanitise at the start of every lesson and will be encouraged to wash their hands frequently.
- Students' desks and classroom furniture will be frequently wiped down with sanitiser throughout the lessons to ensure the highest standards of hygiene.
- We have an individual risk assessment for each subject area that requires the use of equipment and we follow Government guidance with regard to sharing equipment.

Local lockdowns

There is a possibility that we may be subject to a local lockdown and that some, or all of the students may have to work from home again for a while next academic year. We are ready to reinstate our online learning programme through the Microsoft Team platform using the equipment delivered at the end of the Spring Term.

If your child feels ill

- If your child has a continuous cough, a high temperature, or has recently lost their sense of taste or smell, please do not send him or her to school.
- They will need to remain at home and contact <https://www.nhs.uk/conditions/coronavirus-covid-19/testing-and-tracing/get-an-antigen-test-to-check-if-you-have-coronavirus/> to organise for your child to have a test. Contact the testing people on the day that the symptoms start and liaise with the school Welfare Dept. and we will be happy to support you through this process.
- If you suspect that someone in your household may have COVID-19 then, the current guidance says that you should all self-isolate until the test results are received.
- If the test was negative, you can usually stop self-isolating. Please go to this website for more information, <https://www.nhs.uk/conditions/coronavirus-covid-19/testing-and-tracing/what-your-test-result-means/>.

Behaviour addendum

We have added a COVID-19 student protocol to our behaviour policy as an addendum. We will explain it to the students on their first day back in school. It will detail the social distancing measures that students will be supported to follow. This addendum is intended to ensure that all members of our school community feel safe within the physical building.

Emotional support:

We understand the need to provide a space for our students to reflect on and understand the difficult circumstances that this pandemic has presented them with. We will be focusing on this in a variety of ways through teaching and learning, but furthermore we will be ensuring that students have access to 1:1 sessions with the



school Mental Health & Well-being practitioner, Jason, who will be increasing his availability over the terms ahead.

If you feel that your child would benefit from this support, please contact the school and we will be happy to discuss and facilitate this for your child.

Thank you all for the tremendous support that you have shown throughout the lockdown period. It has certainly been a remarkable year. We will continue to do all we can to ensure that students can catch up on their missed learning and that we support them, understanding that their health and well-being and safety is our top priority. This has been a challenging period, but there have been many positives and we will emerge from this as more resilient, more creative and more independent than we were before. I look forward to welcoming our school community back to the Ian Mikardo building from September 7th, but in the mean time please do contact the school should you wish to discuss this or any other matter.

Yours sincerely,

Aaron Mulhern.