

WELCOMING OUR PUPILS BACK – THE VALLEY MODEL

We are really looking forward to welcoming all our pupils and staff back in September. Please take some time to go through these details with your son or daughter, so that we can all work together to cope with having to work in a different way to avoid any further disruption to learning. It is not part of our normal way of working to be so directive and restrictive, but it is necessary in our commitment to keeping everyone safe.

- Apart from the first couple of days, all pupils are expected in school each day. School is fully staffed and this makes it possible to support social distancing and hygienic practices.
- All taps have been converted to push-style, so that they do not need to be touched after washing. Soap and hand-gel is provided and pupils are expected to use them frequently and effectively.
- All staff and pupils have their temperature checked on arrival each day. Strict procedures are in place if anyone shows signs of the virus or receives a confirmed diagnosis.
- To avoid creating crowded areas, only one pupil at a time is allowed to use the toilets and each year group has an allocated set of toilets.
- Pupils may only engage with other pupils in their own year group during learning and social time. Room layout has been adapted and activities have been chosen to avoid shared resources and physical interactions.
- The day will run in a very similar pattern to normal. Lessons will be timed and pupils will focus on learning, so that they can re-establish predictable and reassuring routines. Breaks will be staggered and pupils will not be allowed to engage with other year groups. Travel around the school will be closely monitored and controlled.
- Every pupil will be given a named pencil case with basic stationery, so that they do not need to share with others. Please keep personal items of stationery for home use in the present circumstances.
- Lower school (years 7 & 8) will take their lunch at 12.30 p.m. and Upper School (years 9-11) will eat at 1.00 p.m. Social activities will be varied, but restricted to year groups.
- If possible, we urge you to choose school meals, rather than packed lunches. This will limit the amount of items that are carried between school and home, as pupils will not be allowed to bring bags. If it is necessary to provide a packed lunch, please choose one of 2 options. Either provide food and drink in disposable wrappings, so that everything can be thrown away after eating, or allow us to send all wrappings and leftover food back home with your child.
- Meals must be paid for online or by cheque. We are not able to process cash.
- Snacks will be provided, free of charge, at morning break. Water will be provided throughout the day and all water bottles will be thoroughly cleaned every day in allocated dishwashers.
- As pupils will not be allowed to bring bags to school, you may wish to consider leaving phones at home, except for pupils who travel completely independently.
- If your son or daughter needs to carry an inhaler or other emergency medication, please provide a small bag that is not hand held (purse belt or bum bag).

- Taxi schedules are still being finalised. Pupils will be expected to remain in the vehicles and will be collected by our staff and escorted to separate entrances for each year group.
- Parents and carers are asked to avoid congregating on or around the site. Any interactions with staff will be minimal and in the open air. More extensive conversations will continue to take place by phone or by email. If you need some limited flexibility in timings of the day to support you at either end of the day, please let us know and we will do all that we can.
- Visitors are not allowed on site and all deliveries are received by site staff outside of any buildings.
- Staff and pupils will take breaks within their year area, to maintain a very small number of interactions with others.
- Any pupil who cannot or will not follow safe practices will not be permitted to attend and will continue to be supported to learn at home.
- Pupils are expected to wear school uniform, if possible. Pupils do not require PE kit, but should arrive in school with footwear that can be used for physical activity.