

Contingency Plan for 1m Social Distancing

If we are asked to implement 1m social distancing, our assumption is that we will be required keep group numbers at 15 or below, as with Primary Schools at present. The popular solution being widely discussed by secondary schools is a 'week on'/'week off' model, where half the students in each class would attend school each week. Aside from the complexities of managing this across a range of option subjects, we have serious reservations about students spending a week in every two at home, after such a long absence from school.

We have therefore planned an alternative model for September which ensures daily education for every student. Our normal school day is 6 lessons of 50 minutes with 20 minutes of tutorial every day. The greatest risk from a social distancing perspective is social time in school at break and lunch. The structure we have designed and timetabled as our alternative arrangement therefore loses these social times and focuses on education in small numbers of 15 or fewer.

We will invite year 7, 8 and 9 students into school for lessons from 8.30am to 12.00pm. Students will have 2 double lessons of 100 minutes with a short break in between. Lessons will be on a fortnightly rotation so that there is full coverage of the curriculum. Students may bring a snack and those entitled to free school meals will be able to collect a packed lunch as they leave. The general expectation is that students will eat at home. This very compressed 4 lesson (from a normal 6) day minimises contact and movement, but still ensures that a meaningful curriculum is delivered.

Year 10, 11, 12 and 13 students will be invited into school from 12.30pm to 4.00pm for an identical offer. It is anticipated that they will have eaten an early lunch before coming to school, but again packed lunches will be available for those entitled to free school meals. Key stage four students will have a double option lesson and a double core subject lesson each day, whilst sixth form students will have 2 double lessons in each A¹ level each week.

We may invite small number of sixth formers in for the late morning session to make the curriculum work and ensure a full delivery in all subjects. This will not compromise social distancing arrangements in any way, as numbers are relatively low.

The advantages of having students return in small class sizes are not just beneficial from a risk assessment perspective. This arrangement also allows teachers to pay close attention to individuals and identify any knowledge gaps and plan appropriate support quickly. From a social, emotional and mental health perspective, small groups and increased teacher attention will help students to rebuild relationships with teachers and peers and adjust to life back in school

This significantly extended school day will use all available time for teachers, so we will find innovative ways of maintaining contact with parents and carers. This is a temporary 'reduced class size' curriculum to ensure that we have a meaningful educational offer with daily contact with students in September, whatever the circumstances. If this is needed, as soon as we are able, we will obviously revert to a normal school day from 8.50am to 3.20pm.