



25 May 2021

Dear Parent/Carer

As you will all be aware, we had a salutary reminder last week that Covid is still circulating in our community. However, we are back to full capacity and yesterday we welcomed the Year 9s back into school.

Back to some sort of normality

I am currently reviewing our Covid risk assessment in the light of restrictions being relaxed by the government last week and the fact that Year 11 and Year 13 leave us at the end of this week. Our plan is that from Monday 7th June we will be going back to as much normality as possible.

This will mean:

1. All students will be in school from 8.40 – 3.05 (staggered starts and ends will be removed)
2. Year 8, 9, 10 and 12 students will enter through the main gate
3. Year 7 students will enter through the side gate as they do now to go to mentor time which will still be in the science block
4. Break time will revert to 20 minutes
5. Lunchtime will revert to 35 minutes
6. Students will move and staff will go back to having their own classroom bases with departments together on corridors
7. Food will again be served from the canteen at break time and lunchtime

Differences from a non-Covid normal environment will be:

1. We will have some 1 – way systems in school to keep the contact between bubbles as minimal as possible
2. Food will be purchased with **cash** at break and lunch but students will be asked to go into the canteens in year group bubbles. We ask that you send students with the correct change as often as you can.
3. We will still be wearing face coverings in communal indoor areas
4. We will still be sanitising hands regularly
5. We will still be asking students and staff to go and get a test if they show any of the main Covid symptoms
6. Students will still be mentored in year groups (this will go back to the college system in September we hope)

To get the new term started off successfully:

These changes are quite significant and therefore we will be asking all students to come back into school on the following rota on Monday 7th June so that we can have an assembly with each year group to explain the changes in detail.

Year 7	9.00 a.m.
Year 12	9.00 a.m.
Year 10	9.30 a.m.
Year 8	10.00 a.m.
Year 9	10.30 a.m.

Face coverings

Many students have decided to continue wearing their face coverings in the classroom and we are more than happy that this is the case. We are still requesting that students and staff wear face coverings in the corridors as we are moving around school.

Lateral flow tests

If your child(ren) has/have been in school you should have received your latest batch of LFT kits. We have now received our next delivery and will be able to provide all students with a kit for over half term. Please help us stay as Covid secure as possible by regularly testing and uploading the result as explained in the kit instructions.

Free Palestine

We have been really moved by the student response to the tragic loss of life in the Middle East over the course of the 11 day conflict. It has really made us sit up and think about how we can harness the energy of our young people. We see massive parallels between conflict resolution happening at a macro scale in various parts of the world and the restorative practices that we are developing at school to enable young people to restore damaged relationships with their peers or staff.

This week Year 7 and Year 8 will be having a longer assembly to talk through the learning we can all take from the conflict. After half term Year 9 and Year 10 will be engaged in some focused lessons to examine the conflict from the perspective of children from both sides of the issue. We are using some interesting materials from a charity called "Solutions not Sides" and we are hoping that they will be coming to work with us during our Aspirations Days in the w/b 5th July. The website for the charity is <https://solutionsnotsides.co.uk/> You might be interested in reading it yourself – I have found it very useful in framing my thinking this week.

Keeping your children safe on the internet

A new IWF (Internet Watch Foundation) safety campaign aims to help parents have conversations with their children about keeping their 'door' closed to child sexual abusers. The campaign includes a booklet for parents, explaining the risks, explaining why children are vulnerable, and suggests practical steps that parents can take.

The mnemonic used in the campaign is TALK:

- TALK to your child about online sexual abuse. Start the conversation – and listen to their concerns.
- AGREE ground rules about the way you use technology as a family.
- LEARN about the platforms and apps your child loves. Take an interest in their online life.
- KNOW how to use tools, apps and settings that can help to keep your child safe online.

For further details go to: <https://talk.iwf.org.uk/>

Morrisons job opportunities

We wanted to alert you to some summer job opportunities at Morrisons in town for Year 10 and Year 11 students. There are also some interesting apprenticeships on offer for school leavers.

If you have a son/daughter who is interested please contact Beverley on 07881758349 option 9.

Yours faithfully



Sylvia Thomas
Principal of Banbury Aspirations Campus