



August 2020

Dear Parent/Carer

We are looking forward to welcoming all of our students back to school in September and we have been working hard over the summer period to ensure that all necessary measures are in place for staff and students to return safely. The wider reopening of schools is taking place under strict government guidelines which require us to implement the following essential measures:

- robust hand and respiratory hygiene
- enhanced cleaning arrangements
- a requirement that people who are ill stay at home
- active engagement with NHS Test and Trace
- formal consideration of how to reduce contacts and maximise distancing between those in school wherever

Our three principles of 'Health, Wellbeing and Education' which have guided us throughout the enforced school closure continue to lead our decision-making to ensure that our school is as safe and effective as possible. Please find a summary below of the changes to the normal school routines which are effective from the start of term

- School will start at 8.30am and finish at 3.00pm for all students.
- Staff and students to maintain social distancing whenever possible.
- There will be no large gatherings eg no full year group assemblies
- Strict hygiene arrangements will be in place especially around hand washing. Hand sanitizer will be available in each classroom and all staff and students will need to sanitize their hands every time they enter a room.
- Each year group will exist within its own 'bubble'. Each year group will have its own entrance and exit to school and will not mix with other year groups during social times. Break and lunchtimes will therefore be staggered to ensure this can take place.
- All classrooms have had their layouts altered to ensure that all desks are facing the front and students are spaced as widely apart as possible.
- Students in Years 7/8/9 will be based in the same classroom for all of their lessons. They will sit in the same place for all of their lessons to reduce surface contact eg desks/chairs.
- Students in Years 10 and 11 will move classrooms but will not mix with students from other year groups. This is to ensure that students in option subjects can study these subjects in specialist classrooms.
- All students will be given their own pencil case at the start of term which includes all basic equipment needed for lessons. They will write their name on this and this will be kept in school to reduce the need to share equipment.
- The 706 dedicated yellow school bus service will still run. Students will need an Igo pass as usual but this year they will not need a separate school bus pass. Please see the information booklet for details of this and also other bus routes which students may wish to use. Further information is available at [www.tfgm.com](http://www.tfgm.com).

Curriculum plans have been adapted for all subjects to enable students to make rapid progress in the Autumn term. Knowledge Organisers have been created all students in Years 7-11 in all subjects. These will be a great resource for our students to use in school and they will also form the backbone of home learning if the need arises for a particular year group to stay at home due to an increase in Covid 19 cases. We hope this will not happen but we must all be ready for this eventuality if it does occur. Staff will also continue to create remote learning tools such as narrated PowerPoints and short videos to support students if this happens.

Parents of students in Y10 and Y11 will be particularly interested in changes that have been announced to certain GCSE and other KS4 courses given the loss of learning time in the last academic year. We are aware that under normal circumstances we would hold an information evening for Y11 and Y10 parents and students in the first few weeks of term. This will not happen this year in its usual format. However, we will be holding a similar event remotely and further details of this will follow in due course. We will ensure that all relevant information about changes to KS4 courses will be shared with parents as part of this event.

We are also pleased to announce that at the start of the new academic year we will be launching our new communication app 'EduLink One'. This app will replace our current 'Groupcall' text messaging service and we know from our in-depth research that this will be a major step forward in continuing to improve communication between school and home. Further details will again follow in the coming weeks but in the meantime we include a flyer in the information booklet which outlines the benefits of this app which is free to use for all parents.

We will send further updates in the next few weeks so that you have all the information you need to make sure the start of term goes as smoothly as possible. We would be grateful if you would discuss these new arrangements with your son / daughter to help them prepare for the start of the new academic year.

Regards



Mr S Atkin  
Deputy Headteacher