

2nd August 2020

Dear Parents and Carers,

Return to School September 2020

I hope you and your families are well and that you are having a good summer.

You will be aware from Government guidance that secondary schools will be reopening for all students in September. I am writing again to share our broad outline and plans. To comply with the guidance, reduce risk and therefore ensure that the return to school for staff and pupils is as safe as possible, we are adopting a year group bubble and zone approach with steps to reduce movement of students around the school. Our aim is to provide a safe learning and working environment for all whilst still delivering a full curriculum.

It has been, and will continue to be a very complex task, involving much planning. Significant work has been completed over the summer to get the site ready. We continue to work closely with other schools within the trust, professional organisations and other headteachers across the County.

Familiar Routines:

- The structure and timings of the school day will be as normal. Students must go straight to their tutor room when they arrive. Staff will be available to help. We will stagger leaving times, but this will be minor.
- We will be teaching and offering a full curriculum to all students in all year groups, including assemblies.
- Students will still be taught by their assigned teachers for the year. When these emergency measures are relaxed students will continue to be taught by the same teachers for the remainder of the year.

New Routines:

- There will be a focus on hand hygiene with hand washing/sanitising stations in school at key entry points and each classroom.
- We are adopting a year group bubble and zone approach where students in each year group will be kept apart.
- Each year group, for the vast majority of their lessons will be taught in their zone with teachers moving to students.

Registered Office: Rush Common School
Hendred Way, Abingdon, Oxon OX14 2AW

John Mason School is part of the Abingdon Learning Trust.
Abingdon Learning Trust is an exempt charity and a
company limited by guarantee.
Registered in England and Wales: **Company No. 7931866**

School Address: Wootton Road
Abingdon, Oxon OX14 1JB

T: (01235) 524 664 **F:** (01235) 520 711

E: office.4126@johnmason.oxon.sch.uk
www.johnmason.oxon.sch.uk



- Specialist rooms will not always be available for use. Where this is the case, subjects will adapt their curriculum to suit.
- There will be different entry and exit points to the school for year groups.
- Each year group will have their own allocated space for break and lunch time with clear routes from classrooms to their outside zones.
- A reduced option of hot and cold food will be served in each zone. We recommend students bring their own packed lunch and sufficient water for the day. We are not accepting any cash on site so this is particularly important until lunch accounts are on parentmail are active and credited.
- Each year group will have separate toilets.
- School transport will run slightly differently with additional buses running for different year groups.
- Normal school uniform is expected to be worn every day. The exception will be when students have PE. On these days students should wear PE kit.

This is a significant change for us and our students. Students will need specific and detailed guidance on how to behave under the new protocols. A clear and structured Induction Programme will need to be adhered to. Therefore, we are going to have a staggered start for different year groups:

Friday 4th September – Years 7, 12 and 13 only

Monday 7th September – Years 7, 12, 13 **and 9 and 11**

Tuesday 8th September – Years 7, 9, 11, 12, 13 **and 8 and 10**

The staggered start for all year groups means that Year 7 will have lots of time with key staff during their induction, with lots of opportunities to get to know their tutor group, Form Tutor, pastoral staff and school leaders. When they arrive on Friday for a 0830 start, they will be met by staff and directed to the main hall. The Year 7 ‘bubble’ will be housed in classrooms in the English and maths block. They will have sole use of the main hall for break and lunch and a large area of the playground adjacent to it.

It is essential to reduce the risk in school and to prevent the transmission of coronavirus, that students do not come into the school if they have coronavirus symptoms or have tested positive. If a student has recently travelled back from holiday from a country on the government’s quarantine list they must not attend school until the full 14 day quarantine period has been completed.

School and public transport will still be available for those who require it. However, we strongly encourage everyone to travel to school on foot, by bike or car where possible. We ask that parents do not enter the school site.

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If you require further information, please contact your child's Director of Key Stage, Mrs Sissons, asis5500@johnmason.oxon.sch.uk

We are really looking forward to welcoming you on Friday.

Best wishes

Adrian Rees

Head of School

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