

Frequently asked Questions



Will my child be able to return to school for the Autumn Term?

All schools will be open for students from all year groups in September in line with Government guidance. The first focus of teachers will be to support students to regain confidence in the classroom so that they catch up on the lost learning time caused by school closure.

What are the Covid recovery plans which the school has in place to ensure a safe return to school in September?

All schools are required to undertake a detailed risk assessment which seeks to minimise the risk of infection for students and staff. This has been undertaken for all 4 Trust schools with input from the Local Authority Education and Health teams. The risk assessments have been approved by the school's local Governing bodies, but will be updated if Government guidance changes. Parents are able to look at the detail of the risk assessments [here](#) and [here](#).

How can the school ensure that students are not exposed to infection?

The school cannot guarantee that students are not exposed to infection, however it can take 'sensible and proportionate' steps to ensure that the risk of infection is minimised. These steps focus on both **prevention** and **control**.

What are the plans which the School will have in place to try and prevent infection?

The full return of all students means that students will not be able to maintain 2m social distancing during the course of the school day. However the following steps have been taken to limit social contact within school.

- Students will remain within their year group and will not have contact with students from the older or younger years during the school day.
- Staggered arrival and departure times will be arranged by year group to limit interpersonal contact.
- Students will be required to wash or sanitise their hands on entry to every classroom.
- Additional hand sanitation points have also been set up on entry to each building and each classroom.
- The timetable has been rearranged to allow for 'split lunch-times' (eg only two year groups will have lunch at any one time, using separate dining and external facilities). This will ease congestion both in the Café and in the playgrounds.
- Where possible students will stay in the same classroom for lessons.
- Where the timetable requires movement between classes this will be highly controlled.
- Students will be reminded of the rule regarding silent corridors to minimise 'aerosol transmission'.
- Additional cleaning routines will be undertaken while students are in class so that bannisters and other 'high-touch' points are regularly sanitised.

What are the steps which the school will take to try and control possible infection?

The most important control which the school can communicate is an absolute requirement that students or staff who are displaying symptoms do not come to school.

If a student shows symptoms within school s/he will immediately be placed in isolation until a parent is able to collect her/him. No further steps will be taken by the school until a positive test is received. No further steps will be taken by the school until a positive Covid 19 test is received. The main symptoms of Covid 19 virus are:

- A new, continuous cough
- A temperature of 37.8°C or higher or a loss of
- A change in, your normal sense of taste or smell (anosmia)

What should I do if my child or someone in my household displays symptoms?

In this situation it is right for your child to stay at home in order to control any potential spread of infection. A test should be obtained and if positive, the individual must stay at home and self-isolate for 10 days. All other members of the household must also quarantine for 14 days. Parents must inform the school in either case.

A simple flow chart, produced by the local authority and showing the required steps is available here : [Ealing Guidance : Flow-chart for parents](#))

What will the school do in the case of an outbreak?

The school will rely on swift contact from parents / staff members or from the 'Track and Trace' system to inform it if a student or staff member has tested positive. It will follow Ealing / Gov't guidance which is currently summarised here : [Ealing : Flowchart for schools in the event of an outbreak](#)

Is my child allowed wear a face mask?

Currently the Government guidance suggests that masks should only be worn if infection rates in the local area rise significantly. The school guidance remains that students may wear a mask if parents deem this appropriate. Parents must however instruct their child on the safe use of the mask (for example using a different mask within school from one worn outside, particularly on public transport).

Will teachers wear face masks?

Again, the Government guidance suggests that this is not necessary as teachers should be supported to maintain social distancing from students (for example teaching from the front of the class rather than making closer contact with individual students). Teaching assistants who are required to give more individualised support are likely to wear appropriate PPE. These rules will vary slightly where members of staff have underlying health conditions.

Will my child be able to continue to have school meals?

The Café will continue to provide food at lunchtime as usual (after the initial two weeks of packed lunches) and steps will be taken to manage the flow of students in order to avoid congestion. Some students may prefer to bring food from home – in which case this must not be shared. The Café will not be open before or after school, or at break time.

Will my child be provided with school equipment and how will I know that this is safe?

Students are already aware of the requirement to bring their own individual learning kit. This is particularly important as students will be reminded not to borrow or lend equipment to others. Students will be provided with antiseptic wipes in order to wipe their own IT or music tech keyboard before use. These are also available in all classrooms to use as required.

Will assemblies take place?

Yes, assemblies can take place provided they only include students from one year group and all students are facing the same direction.

Can students take part in PE and Music?

Yes, PE and Music can both take place within Year group bubbles. There will be a restriction on contact sports, some music ensembles and singing. We will keep this situation under review as further evidence emerges.

Will there be a full range of extra-curricular activities?

The school will do its best to maintain extra-curricular activities – however these will be limited by the requirement for students not to mix with others outside their own year group. A modified extra-curricular timetable will be issued at the start of term. The arrangements for extra-curricular activities will be reviewed at the end of September once the school has settled into its new routines.

Are there any changes to uniform regulations?

No, the school uniform remains unchanged. However, students must attend school in their PE kit on the day they have PE as changing rooms will not be in use.

Is it safe for my son / daughter to travel to school on public transport?

The school is strongly recommending that students walk or cycle to school if this is possible for them. If they have no option except public transport, a mask must be worn and time must be allocated to take account of the limited capacity on buses. At the end of the school day students will be required to walk to bus stops further from the school in order to limit crowding

What if my child has an underlying health complaint which makes her/him particularly vulnerable?

Parents of a student with severe or chronic health conditions should seek the advice of their GP/ Hospital consultant regarding their return to school. Advice received must be passed on to the school and a temporary amendment to the student's Individual Health Care plan must be agreed before the student returns to school. In some cases, it may be appropriate to complete an individual risk assessment which will need to be communicated more widely within the school community. Parents needing to update an IHCP should contact the school office by email and cc their child's Head of Year.

What if my child has special educational needs and will find it difficult to follow the revised school arrangements?

Arrangements in school will be explained carefully and sensitively within school in order to reassure all students that the school is being made as safe as possible. Students will have the opportunity to ask questions on the first days in school and it is hoped that the new arrangements will quickly settle into a sensible routine. Parents of students with Education & Health Care plans who are concerned about how their son/daughter will be able to manage the new arrangements should make direct contact with the school SENCO who will offer individual guidance.

What if another child fails to respect appropriate distancing within school ?

Whilst the school will be sensitive to students 're-learning' the discipline of school, it will have to take a firm line on breaches of discipline because of the increased risk that these may pose. Issues such as pushing, spitting, chewing gum, casual dropping of food and failure to follow classroom / corridor codes may lead to harsher punishments (such as internal exclusions) than students have previously experienced. It is essential that parents re-inforce the need for socially responsible behaviour both in an in transit to and from school

Am I able to visit the school site as a parent ?

Yes, but by appointment only. Parents will not be permitted beyond the school gates unless for a previously arranged appointment. All visitors are also expected to wear masks and abide by the usual social distancing / sanitising protocols. Parents will also be expected to observe social distancing rules if waiting to collect students at the school gates.

How will my child be able to keep up with their work if they have to quarantine for a period?

Teachers will continue to follow the curriculum and use resources which are available on Copia. Students will therefore be able to keep up with their studies by following the same powerpoints and completing the same activities / written work and prep as their fellow students who are in school. Quarantining students are advised to maintain the same timetable as they would have followed in school in this context.

What if there is an outbreak in my child's year group and the whole year group are required to quarantine?

In this situation also, students will be supported remotely to maintain their usual timetable via the lessons on Copia.

School Specific Arrangements

How we will keep the students separated?

The students will have staggered arrival and departure times and separate lining up points in the mornings before they enter the school building. They will be escorted by their tutors into school to enable year groups to remain separate.

Where possible year group bubbles will be kept in specific teaching areas and the teachers will move around. This is easier to achieve in Year 7 & 8 where the curriculum is more similar for more pupils. Students will continue to move to specialist teaching spaces (e.g. Science Art) during the day but the timetable has been written to minimise contact between year groups.

During lesson transitions there will be a strict dismissal of each class on the bell. A clear 'keep-left' system in the corridors will maintain a distance between passing groups of students in the middle of the corridor. Staggered breaktimes and lunchtimes will limit mixing between year groups and there will be a 'zoning' of spaces in the playground and in the café areas to further minimise the mixing between year groups as far as possible.

End times of the school day will be staggered so that the whole school does not leave at the same time and staff on duty will supervise the departure.

How will classrooms look / operate?

In order to safeguard staff, and to enable staff to work with more than one year group, teachers will remain 2 metres away from students as much as possible. Government guidelines clearly state that students must be seated in rows, facing forwards. We have placed tape on the floor to indicate the 'teacher zone' where the teacher must stay as much as possible and the 'student zone'. An exam desk with hand sanitiser and wipes will also be provided in each classroom, next to the door. Windows and, where possible, doors will be kept open at all times to enable maximum ventilation.

What about shared resources / equipment?

Shared equipment which cannot be brought in by the students, such as computers or specialist equipment in science / art / music, will be wiped down after use by students – wipes will be provided. Resources like textbooks will not be able to be used by multiple year groups and so photocopying will be required. Similarly, equipment will not be able to be lent out or shared – we would underline to parents the importance of students having all items on the equipment list.

How will the students have lunch?

Split lunches will be in operation every day. Year 7 & 8 will have their lunch break during the Period 5 time, Year 9-11 during the normal lunchtime. Within the lunchtimes different year groups will have individual times to go through the café to buy food should they wish to. The lunch offer will be reduced to speed up the processing of the students and the café will be split into different zones. The year group will also be allocated an outside zone.

How will break time work?

Split breaktimes will be in operation every day. Year 7&8 will have breaktime at the start of period 3 (10.40-11.00) and Year 9-11 will have breaktime at 11.30-11.50 (where breaktime will normally be).

How will detentions run?

The behaviour system will operate as normal – students will still be given positives and negatives, the email will be send home to notify parents of positives / negatives for the day, and detentions will take place at 4pm for Year 10 & 11 or at the earlier time of 3.50pm for Year 7-9.