

Dear Parents and Guardians,

Thank you for your efforts to support our blended learning throughout these difficult times and I am sure you are looking forward to our new normal in September at EPCHS.

The government has announced that schools will be fully open for all students this September. They believe that as the pandemic is brought under control, the greater risk lies in the long-term damage to the education and mental health of children. Schools have been asked to put in place the guidelines outlined in the newly published '**Guidance for full opening: schools**' (you can read a copy of this by clicking on the link:

<https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/actions-for-schools-during-the-coronavirus-outbreak/guidance-for-full-opening-schools>.

Schools must put in proportionate and protective measures for students and staff and carry out risk assessments. The documents say that students should be grouped in year 'bubbles' and should minimise contact with other year groups. All desks in classrooms must face forward where practical and there should be a safe distance between staff and students. We must minimise contact with individuals who are unwell and there is a section on how to do this which we will follow. Hand sanitisers will be used on entry and exit to all classrooms and will also be strategically placed around school. Our cleaning staff will clean the school throughout the day to ensure our hygiene standards are maintained.

All schools are expected to deliver their full curriculum ahead of examinations in 2021. Having considered the government guidance, we believe our plans are in everyone's best interests whilst maintaining the health and safety of every member of our community. A link to our risk assessment can be found on our website:

<https://epchs.co.uk/maintaining-a-safe-school-environment/>

In order for our students to understand their role in complying with the risk assessments, we have planned a staggered start to the autumn term. This has been advised as best practice for all schools. Start and finish times for students will also be staggered to avoid congestion at the entrances and exits.

Students will spend their first day with their Form Tutor and Pastoral Leader and will have the opportunity to re-connect with their peers and staff. The day will consist of an Assembly, a tour of the school including the new one-way system, and Personal Development activities.

Wednesday 2nd September – Year 8, Year 9 and Year 10

- Full school uniform expected.

		Where to gain access to the site (these will be signposted)
Entrance: 8:40am	Year 8 Playground student entrance	Pedestrian entrance (left side by car park barrier)
Exit 3:03pm		
Entrance: 8:30am	Year 9 Student Services entrance	Pedestrian entrance (right side by car park exit)
Exit 3:00pm		
Entrance: 8:40am	Year 10 Student Services entrance	Pedestrian entrance (right side by car park exit)
Exit: 3:03pm		

Thursday 3rd September – Year 7, Year 11, Years 12 and 13

- Year 8, Year 9 and Year 10 remain at home with work on 365 Teams.
- Full school uniform expected.

		Where to gain access to the site (these will be signposted)
Entrance: 8:40am	Year 7 Playground student entrance	Pedestrian entrance (left side by car park barrier)
Exit 3:00pm		
Entrance: 8:40am	Year 11 Student Services entrance	Pedestrian entrance (right side by car park exit)
Exit 3:05pm		
Entrance: 8:40am	Years 12 and 13 Reception	Pedestrian entrance (left side by car park barrier)
Exit: 3:00pm		

Example First Day (either Wednesday or Thursday)

Arrival at school – dedicated zoned area	
8:45am – 9:45am	Period 1 Virtual assembly by Pastoral Leader
9:45am – 10:45am	Period 2 Tour of the school
10:45am – 11:00am	Breaktime
11:00am – 12:00pm	Period 3 Form Tutor duties
12:00pm – 12:45pm	Lunchtime
12:45pm – 1:45pm	Period 4 Personal Development activities
1:45pm – 2:45pm	Period 5 Personal Development activities
2:45pm	Tutor Time (held in Period 5)

Friday 4th September

- All year groups will return and commence regular timetable.

Entrance:	8:30am	Year 7 Playground student entrance
Exit	3:00pm	
Entrance:	8:40am	Year 8 Playground student entrance
Exit	3:03pm	
Entrance:	8:30am	Year 9 Student Services entrance
Exit	3:00pm	

Entrance: 8:40am	Year 10 Student Services entrance
Exit: 3:03pm	
Entrance: 8:40am	Year 11 Student Services entrance
Exit: 3:05pm	
Entrance: 8:40am	Years 12 and 13 Reception
Exit: 3:00pm	

- From Friday 4th September lesson times will have changed to accommodate decreasing movement time to the following (**all students will be expected to be in school by 8.45am**).

Arrival at school – dedicated zoned area	
8:45am – 9:45am	Period 1
9:45am – 10:45am	Period 2
10:45am – 11:00am	Breaktime
11:00am – 12:00pm	Period 3
12:00pm – 12:45pm	Lunchtime
12:45pm – 1:45pm	Period 4
1:45pm – 2:45pm	Period 5
2.45pm – 3:00pm	Form Time
3:00pm / 3:03pm / 3:05pm	Dismissal

Breaktime and Lunchtime Arrangements

Free breakfasts (bagels) will continue on entrance into school but no food will be available at break time. Students may bring snacks and recycling bins are available in all outside areas.

At lunchtime, a limited selection of cold food will be available. Unfortunately, hot food will not be available for the foreseeable future.

There will be a **food ordering** service available on arrival and the grab bag will be available in the designated outside area. Students will need to bring in their own bottle of water to meet their requirements during the day as water fountains are out of use.

Zoned Areas for Break and Lunchtime

- Barriers are in place to support social distancing.
- There will be toilets available in each area.
- Football areas for students at lunchtime will be available in year groups when weather permits.
- Students will have a staggered return to classrooms after break and lunchtime.

Year 7 Tennis Courts
Year 8 The yard in front of the Gym
Year 9 The yard in front of the Science Block
Year 10 The yard in front of the Sports Hall and the football pitches
Year 11 The Picnic Area and the football pitches
Years 12 and 13 Sixth Form Area

Curriculum

Risk Assessments for each subject area have taken place throughout the school and government guidelines suggest that PE lessons resume with appropriate activities.

Music have adapted their curriculum content to Musical Theory and Composition.

Teaching and Learning

Teachers' desks have been fitted with sneeze guards and hand sanitiser stations have been placed around the building on most corridors to allow for plentiful opportunities to maintain good hand hygiene. Please reinforce this with your child that good hand hygiene helps to protect our community.

PPE is available to staff and students should be aware that some staff may choose to use PPE during lesson times.

Staff have been asked to maintain a 2-metre social distance from all students and colleagues. Students are asked to respect the social distancing measures with staff. Where this not adhered to, the school behaviour policy will be applicable.

Marking and Feedback

Please be aware that due to current government guidance the marking and feedback each student will receive from September will take a more blended form. Students will continue to receive regular whole class and individual verbal and visual feedback in class alongside written feedback via online platforms such as Teams. Exercise books will be kept in classrooms in designated areas to ensure health and safety standards are maintained. Whilst all exercise books will remain in school we still expect that students will continue to maintain our high standards of presentation and written work.

Assemblies and Masses

Both will be conducted virtually via Zoom to prevent mass gatherings. They will be led by the Pastoral Team and will be facilitated by teaching staff.

We recognise in certain circumstances that a 2-metre rule is not appropriate. For example, children with Physical Special Educational and Health needs as well as those children who require LSA support in lessons may need closer support from staff.

I really appreciate your support as parents over this difficult time and will continue to monitor the guidance over the coming weeks, but for now we are ready for September and look forward to welcoming our students back.

I would also like to praise all teaching and non-teaching staff for their commitment and professionalism over the lockdown period and the fantastic support and guidance from the governing body.

I wish you and your family a lovely summer and look forward to working with you next year.