



Dear Parent/Carer,

I hope you and your family have had a pleasant summer.

A few reminders

I thought it would be useful to give you a few reminders as we prepare to welcome students back to school next week.

Return to 'normal' school arrangements

We are hoping for a 'normal' school year following the government's Step 4 arrangements for the country's response to COVID-19 and the relaxation of many of the measures which were in place before the summer. This means that year groups will no longer be organised into separate 'bubbles' and face coverings will be optional. Strong health and safety measures, such as the thorough cleaning of the school site and students hand washing with hand sanitiser regularly will remain in place.

If the COVID-19 situation becomes very serious nationally and/or locally, we may have to review arrangements, but in doing so, we will consider guidance from the Department for Education and advice from Public Health England.

Dates for the phased return of students

Please kindly note- a slight change from our previous communication is that students will need to be on site by 8.45am unless otherwise stated.

Year 7	Wednesday 1st September and Monday 6th September – attend school for LFD test only Tuesday 7th September – attend school all day from 8.45am Wednesday 8th September – attend school from break (11am) onwards Thursday 9th September – attend school from break (11.10am) onwards Friday 10th September - attend school all day from 8.45am
Year 8	Thursday 2nd September and Tuesday 7th September – attend school for LFD test only Wednesday 8th September – attend school all day from 8.45am Thursday 9th September – attend school from break (11.10am) onwards Friday 10th September - attend school all day from 8.45am
Year 9	Friday 3rd September and Wednesday 8th September – attend school for LFD test only Thursday 9th September – attend school all day from 8.45am Friday 10th September - attend school all day from 8.45am
Year 10	Friday 3rd September and Wednesday 8th September – attend school for LFD test only Thursday 9th September – attend school all day from 8.45am Friday 10th September - attend school all day from 8.45am
Year 11	Thursday 2nd September and Tuesday 7th September – attend school for LFD test only Wednesday 8th September – attend school all day from 8.45am Thursday 9th September – attend school from break (11.10am) onwards Friday 10th September - attend school all day from 8.45am

Year 12	Wednesday 1st September and Monday 6th September – attend school for LFD test only Tuesday 7th September - attend Sixth Form all day from 8.45am Wednesday 8th September -attend Sixth Form for period 3 lesson (11.20am) onwards Thursday 9th September -attend Sixth Form for period 3 lesson (11.30 am) onwards Friday 10th September - attend Sixth Form all day from 8.50am
Year 13	Wednesday 1st September and Monday 6th September – attend school for LFD test only Tuesday 7th September – attend Sixth Form for period 3 lesson (11.30am) onwards Wednesday 8th September – attend Sixth Form for period 3 lesson (11.20am) onwards Thursday 9th September – attend Sixth Form for period 3 lesson (11.30am) onwards Friday 10th September - attend Sixth Form all day from 8.50am

Arriving for your child's first full day back in school

As you are aware, year groups will be having their first full day as follows, arriving by the gates indicated and should report to the following areas to meet their Progress Leader and Form Tutor:

Year group	First full day back in school from 8.50am unless otherwise stated:	Students arrive via:	Students should go to:
7	Tues 7th September	Shanklin Drive gate	Chine Hall
8	Weds 8th September	Brookdale Road or Higham Lane gates	Main playground
9	Thurs 9th September	Brookdale Road or Higham Lane gates	Main playground
10	Thurs 9th September	Brookdale Road or Higham Lane gates	Main playground
11	Weds 8th September	Brookdale Road or Higham Lane gates	Tennis courts
12	Tues 7th September	Shanklin Drive gate	Sixth Form Centre
13	Tues 7th September from 11.30am	Shanklin Drive gate	Sixth Form Centre

Students cycling to school

All students cycling should arrive through the Brookdale Road gate and lock their bike in the bike shed please.

Uniform and personal appearance for students in Years 7-13

The normal school uniform and personal appearance expectations apply with all students expected to attend in full school uniform from their first day in school. These expectations can be found in the Student Organiser.

For example:

No jewellery other than a watch, school badges and one, small, plain ear stud per ear may be worn. The wearing of jewellery in body piercings is not allowed for health and safety reasons. The wearing of jewellery in PE is not allowed for health and safety reasons. PLEASE NOTE: necklaces chains and jewellery should not be worn.

For example:

Hairstyles

Long hair should be tidy, should not cover the eyes and should be tied up for health and safety reasons during certain lessons such as PE, Science and Technology.

Hair slides/bands/scrunchies should be plain in colour and design. No other hair accessories such as bandannas, flower garlands or flowers are allowed.

Parents/carers should not allow their children to have hairstyles that break the rules below during term time. If these instructions are not followed, students will be placed in Inclusion and parents/carers contacted.

Please bear in mind that hair dyes take several days to wash out and tramlines take several days to grow back.

Not acceptable: Colouring that stands out and is obviously different from the student's natural hair colour (eg pink, blue, green, red etc.); tramlines; shaved areas that leave hair at different lengths; hair shaped into patterns.

Please be aware of recent trends where the sides and back of the head is cut short leaving a distinct line/edge between that area and the rest of the hair (sometimes known as an 'undercut' or 'disconnection'). This type of haircut is not allowed.

Other reminders:

No false nails or eyelashes and no nail varnish please.

Skirts should be worn at knee-length.

Coats should be plain black.

Thank you, in anticipation, for your assistance in supporting smart appearance in our students. I hope you will agree these are simple, straight-forward expectations. You have agreed to send your son/daughter to this school. Adhering to our dress code and personal appearance expectations is essential.

PE kit

Please note that from the start of the autumn term, students who have PE should come to school in full school uniform as they will be changing into PE kit before their PE lessons. They should not arrive at school in PE kit. Only PE kit with the Higham Lane logo should be worn.

Face coverings

Face coverings are now optional for staff and students. It is a personal decision as to whether they choose to wear a face covering.

Equipment required for learning

On their first full day at school, all students need to bring a suitable bag and have a fully-equipped pencil case containing pens, pencils, a ruler, a rubber, a pencil sharpener and a basic calculator. Some coloured pencils and highlighters are also useful. Where possible, we also ask students to have a purple biro and a green biro.

Bringing hand sanitiser and a pack of tissues

We will continue to ask students to wash their hands with hand sanitiser regularly throughout the day as part of our control measures to prevent the spread of COVID-19 in line with Department for Education expectations. Students will also be asked to continue to use the "Catch it-bin it- kill it" method when coughing, sneezing or blowing their noses. It is essential therefore that every student brings a small bottle of hand sanitiser and a pack of tissues with them every day. Thanks for your support with this.

Purchasing food on site

Please can I remind parents/carers that we operate a cashless payment system in school and that if your son/daughter plans to purchase food from the school canteen, they will need to have sufficient funds in their ParentPay account in order to do this. Please remember to top up your son's/daughter's Parent Pay account before the start of term, where necessary.

Fobs

Fobs are used to enable students to make cashless payments when purchasing food and drink from the school canteen at break and lunchtime. Year 7 and Year 12 students will be issued with new fobs. All other students should bring in their fob from last year. Replacements can be purchased from Student Services for £1.

New arrangements about positive COVID-19 cases, contact tracing and self-isolating

In line with Department for Education expectations from 12th July, the School will no longer conduct contact tracing when a student tests positive for Covid-19 via a PCR test. Instead, NHS Test and Trace will work with the student and/or parent/carer to identify close contacts. We would like to update parents/carers on the guidance that has been published by the DfE:

Positive cases

- NHS Test and Trace will carry out contact tracing with the individual
- Parents/carers should still advise school via our PositiveTest email (positivetest@highamlaneschool.co.uk) if their child tests positive
- Close contacts do not need to self-isolate as long as:
 - They are fully vaccinated; or
 - They are below the age of 18 years and 6 months; or
 - They have taken part in or are currently part of an approved Covid-19 vaccine trial
 - They are not able to get vaccinated for medical reasons
- Close contacts will be asked to take a PCR test but do not need to isolate whilst waiting for results (based on the above criteria)
- Students who have been identified as close contacts do not need to isolate and should continue to attend school as normal.

Students with symptoms

- Anyone with symptoms should self-isolate and take a PCR test. They should not attend school
- If anyone develops symptoms whilst in school, they should be sent home to isolate and take a PCR test. They should avoid using public transport
- Evidence of a negative PCR test will be required for the student to return to school
- If a PCR test is not taken, the individual must self-isolate for 10 days from the onset of symptoms

Main symptoms of coronavirus (COVID-19)

- The main symptoms of coronavirus (COVID-19) are:
 - a high temperature – this means you feel hot to touch on your chest or back (you do not need to measure your temperature)

- a new, continuous cough – this means coughing a lot for more than an hour, or 3 or more coughing episodes in 24 hours (if you usually have a cough, it may be worse than usual)
- a loss or change to your sense of smell or taste – this means you've noticed you cannot smell or taste anything, or things smell or taste different to normal

The milder symptoms of Covid-19 are:

- sore throat
- severe fatigue/feeling unwell for no clear reason
- poorly tummy
- severe headache
- muscle aches

If your child develops any of the above symptoms during the school day, we will contact you and ask that you collect your child and take them for a PCR test as soon as possible.

Thank you in anticipation for your continued support with these arrangements.

Student wellbeing and support

We appreciate that some students may be experiencing a variety of emotions in response to the COVID-19 pandemic, such as anxiety, stress or low mood. We will continue to support these students and their families. We do this in a variety of ways.

All students in school during 2020-21 have attended assemblies on the use of Kooth, an online mental wellbeing app and we will offer assemblies to newly-arriving students about Kooth. We are also subscribing to the MeeToo mental health app. This provides 24-7 support in addition to that provided in school. We have a full-time counsellor and many of our staff are trained as mental health first aiders. These members of staff work sensitively with students requiring support.

If you have any questions or concerns on any matter, please do not hesitate to contact the School on contactus@highamlaneschool.co.uk

We are really looking forward to welcoming our students to school next week!

Best wishes,

P.Kelly
Headteacher