



Haberdashers' Monmouth Schools

From the Principal **Mr James Murphy-O'Connor** MA Oxon

14th July 2020

Dear Parents and Guardians

As promised, now that we have had the latest advice from both the English and Welsh governments, I would like to update you on our plans for reopening our schools in September. We are determined to open as fully as we can while still minimising the risks posed by Covid-19. To some extent, we can act independently and so have worked through detailed plans on how we can deliver our broad educational programme across all five school sites.

We aim to open all of our schools on the dates issued in our published timelines - please see website. We thus anticipate welcoming every student back to school.

<https://www.habsmonmouth.org/information/term-dates/>

To achieve this, we have completed an extensive Risk Assessment. I am most grateful to Mrs Tessa Norgrove, our Foundation Bursar, for overseeing this and we will make this available to you over the summer for your reassurance. I am sure that you will understand that every element of this Risk Assessment comes with clear caveats. We will continue to work on procedures and plans throughout the summer whilst remaining vigilant over a second spike.

We are planning how to respond to the challenges of COVID-19 on all aspects of school life. Students will be in 'coloured bubbles', based on Year Groups and boarding houses. We are working on a timetable which limits their movement as we know that social distancing amongst our students will be difficult to achieve. We are investing significantly in the IT provision available to our staff, which will enable them to move between classrooms and reduce the flow of students across the site.

Cleaning and PPE is another key element of our planning process. We will have a full rota of cleaning in place, combined with a timetable for handwashing on arrival, before and after eating, toileting and when leaving the school site. Visitors to the site will follow clear protocols on entry/exit, which will include temperature checks and handwashing on entry and exit. We aim to carefully manage use of shared space and equipment by different groups (e.g. libraries, dining rooms, assembly halls and IT suites). We are also monitoring the wearing of face masks, which may well be extended in future government updates.

We will issue instructions for parents on drop off/pick up arrangements including timings, where to park and walk if dropping off younger students. We are liaising with our school transport providers and will issue further guidelines on this.

Beyond the beginning of term, we are currently planning for the following:

- A constant review of our sporting provision term-by-term;
- A review (to introduce) all activities/afterschool clubs after the October half term;

- A regular review of performing arts opportunities;
- No residential school trips this calendar year;
- The Director of Sixth Form will be in touch to confirm arrangements for Years 12 and 13;
- Plans for morning and afternoon registration;
- How to run assemblies effectively;
- We hope that some 'academic surgeries/clinics' might be possible throughout the term;
- Reviewing Parents' Evenings and the possible use of video calls;
- The introduction of a link tutor if there is a need for online learning;
- Small modifications to the uniform and minimising changing into games kit;
- Reviewing arrangements over peripatetic music lessons;
- If there is an early warning showing a local outbreak of COVID-19, we will issue a plan with immediate effect.

There will be much to think through and plan over the weeks ahead, but our clear aim is to return to some sort of normality from September and to embrace school life once more. We want to give your children the best opportunities we can, whilst keeping everyone as safe as we can.

In the meantime, once again thank you for your patience and support over this extraordinary time and I wish you all a very happy and peaceful Summer.

Kind regards

