

Dear Parent/Carer

We are delighted to be welcoming all of our Northallerton School & Sixth Form students back to school, Tuesday 9 March. The government has provided detailed guidance on how we can carry this out as safely as possible, which can be read by following this link: [here](#)

As a country we are still in the middle of a pandemic and mass vaccination drive. Therefore, we have a duty to ensure that we continue to do all we can to keep ourselves and others safe.

### **Pod System**

We will continue to operate the year group pod system. We have designed our timetable so that, wherever possible, students can remain in their pod for their lessons. This helps to ensure less mixing between students and therefore reduces the risk of transmission of COVID. We will be using the same pod areas as we were when we broke up for Christmas:

- Year 7: MFL and Health & Social Care huts
- Year 8: Upstairs in B Block / English
- Year 9: H Corridor and Art
- Year 10: Science and A7
- Year 11: New B Block / Maths
- Year 12/13: D Block, G block and library area

### **Entrance and Start Time; Exit and Finish Time**

Y7 - Gate (Huts) Entrance 8:30 – 8:40. Finish school at 15:05

Y8 - Main Entrance 8:30 – 8:40. Finish school at 15:15

Y9 - Colstan Road 8:30 – 8:40. Finish school at 15:15

Y10 - Main Entrance 8:30 – 8:40. Finish school at 15:05

Y11 - Crosby Road 8:30 – 8:40. Finish school at 15:15

### **Health and Safety**

A copy of our current Risk Assessment can be found on the school's website. It is updated regularly and details the control measures that we have in place in accordance with government guidance. A summary of these measures can be found below.

- Regularly reminding students about hygiene and social distancing.
- Encouraging hand sanitising regularly.
- No parent and carers are allowed on site unless they have an appointment (most contact with home will continue to be via telephone).
- Students will be offered two home test kits a week after the initial 3 tests taken on school for those who have consented. Further information about the distribution of these kits will follow next week.
- Lunch and break times are staggered to keep pods from mixing.
- Our timetable is based on the principle that teachers move so as to reduce student movement around the site.
- Enhanced and additional cleaning of toilets and specialist classrooms.

## Social distancing

Even within the pods, students must still practice social distancing, where possible - 1 metre from each other and 2 metres from staff. They must avoid physical contact; should not share equipment or food and not deliberately act in an unsafe manner.

## Face Masks

Following the updated government guidance, face coverings will be expected in classrooms as well as in corridors and communal indoor areas. The wearing of face coverings in classrooms is being introduced for a limited time until Easter. Face masks will not need to be worn during strenuous activity, for example PE lessons or outdoors. The vast majority of students have worn face masks correctly at all times. There is a very small minority of students who may be exempt due to a physical or mental illness or impairment, a disability or where wearing a face covering causes severe distress. We will liaise with parents/carers and support children where there is a genuine reason.

## Timetable/Seating Plans

Students' timetables will remain as they are. However, the timings of lessons will revert back to what they were before we broke up for Christmas for Y7-9. This is to allow staggered lunchtimes in our dining area and to allow the dining area to be fully cleaned between each lunch sitting. Accurate seating plans have been produced for each class which must be followed. This is to allow the tracing of close contacts to be done if there is a confirmed case of COVID. If your child is unhappy with their allocated seat please contact their form tutor in the first instance.

## Uniform & Equipment

All students in years 7 - 11 need to wear their full school uniform and there is no requirement to wash this any more often than usual unless you want to. Sixth Formers should wear appropriate smart casual clothing as per our existing expectations. Students must bring their own equipment to school: two pens, two pencils, a ruler and a calculator. All additional information regarding uniform and equipment can be found - [here](#)

## Behaviour and Conduct

We expect high standards from our students at all times, and in this post-lockdown world this is more important than ever. We will continue to place the greatest emphasis on recognition and positive encouragement, but where behaviour does not meet our standards, we will isolate students within their year group pod or, in extreme circumstances, issue fixed term exclusions and ask parents/carers to take students home immediately. We will not tolerate any behaviour that compromises the health and safety of others; consequences for breaches will be serious. Our behaviour policy is available to read on our website - [here](#)

## Transport

Where possible, the best thing to do is to walk or cycle to school. Those travelling on school buses or public transport will need to wear face coverings. It goes without saying that we will work with the bus companies and North Yorkshire County Council to enforce a zero tolerance approach to behaviour issues related to Covid safety on the school buses. Students will not be allowed to use school passenger transport if they are unable to follow expectations.



### **Attendance**

Maintaining a high level of attendance for all students is one of our priorities. Our aim is that all students have at least 96% attendance. When a child's attendance falls below 90% they are classified as being persistently absent (PA), attendance below 90% is shown to directly correlate with underachievement which is why it is such a high priority for students. **All students will be expected in school from Tuesday 9th March 2021.**

### **Absence**

If a student is unwell, you should follow our standard absence procedures which is to email [absences@northallertonschool.org.uk](mailto:absences@northallertonschool.org.uk) or ring **01609 773340** (there is an answerphone messaging facility for this purpose), **before 8.30am**. If a student displays symptoms of COVID-19, they should not come to school until a test has been taken and a negative result received. **If the test is positive, the student must isolate until symptoms go away, and at least for 10 days.** If COVID-19 is suspected or confirmed, please notify the school as soon as possible so we can implement test and trace procedures. If a student becomes unwell at school, we will contact you to take them home. If there is evidence of COVID-19 symptoms, we will implement our risk assessment measures.

### **Student Wellbeing**

Routine is very important for our mental health and well being. For many students returning to school will be an exciting prospect. However, we are keenly aware that some students may feel anxious about their return to school. We would like to reassure all students that we are looking forward to seeing them soon and that familiar faces will be here, ready for when they return. Please do not hesitate to get in touch with your child's tutor, Head of Year or our Safeguarding Lead, Mrs Bell, should you wish to discuss any concerns you may have.

### **Video walk-throughs of testing arrangements - Monday 8th March**

On your child's year group Google Classroom page there will be a video walkthrough posted this evening showing the arrangements for the lateral-flow testing on Monday. The video will show the route to be taken from the entry point, towards the testing centre, through the testing centre and then to the exit point.

Finally, I'd like to thank you for all of your support over the past two months and for the support in preparing students for their return next week.

Yours faithfully

Mrs V E Rahn



# Northallerton School & Sixth Form College

Being the best we can be

Head of School: Mrs V Rahn  
Grammar School Lane, Northallerton,  
North Yorkshire, DL6 1DD.  
T: 01609 773340 Fax: 01609 770265  
E: [enquiries@northallertonschool.org.uk](mailto:enquiries@northallertonschool.org.uk)  
W: [www.northallertonschool.org.uk](http://www.northallertonschool.org.uk)

---