



# The Winston Churchill School

A Specialist Sports College

Headteacher: Zoë Johnson-Walker

13th July 2020

Dear Parents/Carers,

We are now just under two months away from the start of the new academic year and as recent experience has shown, a great deal can change in those eight weeks. Therefore, in publishing the plans to return everyone to Winston, in September, I must add the caveat that these plans could change at any point, up to and including the first week in September.

I have previously written to parents outlining some of the things that we will be able to do differently in September in response to coronavirus. However, we are all aware that with 1500 students in the school and at least 175 staff, social distancing will be very limited.

Therefore, I would like to welcome your children back into Winston in the following way:

Wednesday 2 <sup>nd</sup> September	Year 7 and Year 11.
Thursday 3 <sup>rd</sup> September	Years 7, 10 and 11.
Friday 4 <sup>th</sup> September	Years 7, 8, 10 and 11.
Monday 7 <sup>th</sup> September	All Year Groups, including Year 9.

The start time for each year group will be 8.20am. On the first day for each year group, the students should wait on the patio for instruction. Every other year group will go directly to their tutor room.

My reasoning for staggering the re-entry of year groups into the school is as follows:

I need to re-establish with each year group what it means to be at school.

We are introducing new systems including one-way corridors and limiting access through some doors as well as new rules around the use of the dining hall and the purchasing of food.

We will take all reasonable steps to maintain the health and safety of all of our community. This will include additional use of hand sanitiser for students and staff every lesson and cleaning of handrails and toilets more regularly as set out in government guidance.

There is an expectation that students will no longer queue in corridors to go into classrooms and that their hands will be sprayed with sanitiser when they arrive.

Various areas of the school including the patio area will be zoned so that different year groups of children can gather in those areas. Procedures around the use of the library and access also have to change to meet the guidance produced by the government.

Children need to experience this as they are gradually reintroduced to being back in lessons which also have to be a little different in terms of all students facing the front of the room, with the teacher at the front of the classroom 2 m away from the students. All the evidence indicates that there is a minimal risk to students and a greater risk to staff, therefore, we aim to look after everyone in our community.



INVESTOR IN PEOPLE





We need to do this well if we are to do our best to keep everyone safe and therefore, I make no apology for taking time to gradually reintroduce children back into the school, making clear our expectations and ensuring that the students understand their responsibility to their community.

Students will be dismissed gradually at the end of each day:

Year 7 at 2.35pm

Year 8 at 2.40pm

Year 9 at 2.50pm

Year 10 at 2.55pm

Year 11 at 3.00pm

If students are remaining behind for an extra-curricular club or to use the library, they should wait in the main hall, within their year groups, for the bell to ring at 2.55pm before moving to that activity.

If a child or a member of staff shows any symptoms of coronavirus they will be sent home and asked to book a test. The school will then ask parents and staff to inform them immediately of the results of a test:

- if someone tests negative, if they feel well and no longer have symptoms similar to coronavirus (COVID-19), they can stop self-isolating. They could still have another virus, such as a cold or flu – in which case it is still best to avoid contact with other people until they are better. Other members of their household can stop self-isolating.
- if someone tests positive, they should follow the [‘stay at home: guidance for households with possible or confirmed coronavirus \(COVID-19\) infection’](#) and must continue to self-isolate for at least 7 days from the onset of their symptoms and then return to school only if they do not have symptoms other than cough or loss of sense of smell/taste. This is because a cough or anosmia can last for several weeks once the infection has gone. The 7-day period starts from the day when they first became ill. If they still have a high temperature, they should keep self-isolating until their temperature returns to normal. Other members of their household should continue self-isolating for the full 14 days.

I will be sending out a leaflet setting out the main points in this letter and reminding everyone of our basic expectations in terms of appearance and attendance at school. We will all need to work together if the transition back to fulltime education is to be the success my staff team and you want it to be. Let’s make it work!

Thank you for your support.

Yours sincerely

Mrs Z Johnson-Walker  
Headteacher