

Dear Parents/Carers

Firstly, I'd like to thank you all for your patience whilst we finalise our plans for September. Over the last week we have been reviewing the guidance issued by the Government and putting plans together so that we can open safely in September. The last few months have undoubtedly been challenging and whilst school won't quite be returning to normal in September, we are looking forward to welcoming all children back to the Academy with some slightly adjusted routines. Below I have outlined the changes that will take place from September, please make sure that you are familiar with them and get in touch with your Head of Year if you have any queries.

Bubbles

Pupils will be placed within year group bubbles so that lessons are able to be taught in their usual way. The timetable has been amended to reduce movement around the school whilst still allowing pupils to access the full curriculum. It is therefore vital for the maintenance of these bubbles that pupils arrive at their designated time below.

Staggered opening

Pupils from different year groups will arrive at different times and enter the building via different entrances. Please make sure that you are aware of the specific times for your child.

Year Group	Arrival Time	Entrance	Assembly Point	Departure Time	Departure	Start Date
7*	8.30am	Front Gate	Courtyard 1	3.20pm	Back Gate	3rd September
8	8.30am	Back Gate	Courtyard 2	3.20pm	Front Gate	7th September
9	8.45am	Back Gate	Courtyard 2	3.30pm	Back Gate	7th September
10	8.45am	Front Gate	Courtyard 1	3.30pm	Front Gate	7th September
11**	9.00am	Back Gate	Straight to lessons	4.20pm	Back Gate	7th September (meet in courtyard 2 on the 1st day)
12	9.00am (10.00am on 7th Sept)	Reception	Straight to lessons	3.30pm	Reception	4th September (meet in courtyard 2 on the 1st day)
13	9.00am (10.00am on 7th Sept)	Reception	Straight to lessons	3.30pm	Reception	7th September (meet in courtyard 2 on the 1st day)

*New Year 7 pupils will receive further information regarding the arrangements for transition days on Thursday 3rd and Friday 4th July.

** In order to support pupils in critical year groups to catch up on work missed during lockdown, we will be running an additional compulsory period at the end of the day for all pupils which will take place between 3.30pm-4.20pm. Please refer to the separate letter for Year 11 parents regarding these arrangements.

Arriving at School

If a parent needs to accompany their child to school, we ask that only ONE parent does so. When pupils arrive they will be asked to clean their hands either by washing them or using a hand sanitizer dispenser before settling in the classroom.

Uniform, Bags and Water Bottles

All pupils should return to school in full school uniform. Every child should arrive at school with a rucksack sized bag which will enable them to keep their books, their own equipment (stationery etc.) and water bottle which they must keep with them at all times. Our water fountains are currently turned off and will remain so in September. Please can you therefore ensure that your child arrives at school with enough water to last the day.

PE

On the days that pupils have PE, they should come to school in their PE kit. They will remain in this all day as the changing facilities will not be open. On the first day all pupils should arrive in normal school uniform.

Break and Lunch Times

Bubbles of pupils will be kept apart at break and lunchtimes and toilet facilities will also be monitored to ensure that social distancing requirements are met. Pupils will be able to purchase lunch, but for the time being only cold options will be available.

Cleaning

We have a thorough cleaning and hygiene regime in place and have contracted external suppliers to carry out an up to date risk assessment ready for September. Our full health and safety protocol is on the website on the Coronavirus page so that you can see in detail the processes that have been put in place.

Pupils Showing Symptoms

If your child develops Covid related symptoms please ensure that they are kept at home and do not return to school unless they receive a negative test result. Any pupil who tests positive, or who has been in contact with someone who has tested positive, should self-isolate as per the Government's guidance. In order to ensure the safety of the whole school, it is vital that you inform us as soon as possible if your child is unwell and give an outline of their symptoms.

Results Days

Further information regarding the arrangements for GCSE and A-level results days will be shared separately.

Finally, I'd like to thank the families of Folkestone Academy for your continued support during this difficult time. Please do not hesitate to get in touch with us if you have any queries.

Yours faithfully

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "S R Shaw". The signature is written in a cursive style with a large, sweeping flourish at the end.

Mr Steve Shaw
Head of School