

## **Frequently Asked Questions for full opening September 2020**

Please note that all answers are for a September return under the current Government guidance and are subject to change following any Government announcements or updates.

### **Timings of the school day:**

#### **Q1. Will students attend school full time?**

Yes. However we are staggering the start of the Term to ensure that all of the new systems and procedures are understood in line with our school risk assessment.

#### **Q2. Will there be a staggered start and end to the school day?**

The start of the day naturally staggers as the school buses arrive at different times. We ask that wherever possible students do not arrive before 8:30am. When students arrive on site they must go straight to their form room where they will be greeted by their teachers from 8:30am. The end of the day is staggered with students leaving at the following times; Year 7 (15:05) Year 8 (15:15) Year 9 (15:10) Year 10 (15:15) year 11 (15:10) Post-16 (15:00).

Students must not hang around on site or at the shops at the end of the school day. Those waiting for special buses must wait in their designated Year group lines as directed by staff on duty.

If you are collecting your child by car please arrange an appropriate pick up location with your child as you are not able to collect on the school site.

#### **Q3. My child usually catches the bus to school, do they still do this?**

In line with government advice, students should walk or cycle to school if this is safe to do so. Buses will run and students can catch their bus as required. We are awaiting confirmation of which company will run the S4 and 85S buses as the current providers have gone into administration this week. The school is working closely with the Local Authority who is leading on this matter as a number of Coventry schools have been affected. On dedicated school transport students will be expected to sit in Year Group sections to help maintain Year Group bubbles and use the hand sanitizer on arrival to school. We encourage you to ensure that your child has appropriate face covering for these journeys. There is a lidded bin at the front of school for the disposal of single use masks.

#### **Q4. Does uniform need to be washed more often?**

No, in line with Government guidance, there is no need to wash uniform more regularly than usual.

#### **Q5. Will rooms be ventilated?**

Yes, windows and doors will be open to increase ventilation in rooms. All rooms have door wedges.

#### **Q6. Will my child need to bring any extra equipment?**

Your child can only use their own equipment in order to minimise the risk of the virus spreading. They will require a full water bottle, packed lunch/snack, bag, pencil case, pencil sharpener, pens, pencils, erasers, rulers, scissors, glue stick, protractor, compass, calculator, MFL dictionary and their own choice of reading book. Other equipment would be desirable such as coloured pencils/fine tipped pens, highlighters, pocket size English dictionary. We will be checking equipment at the start of every day to support students to be well organised.

**Q9. Will the canteen be open?**

Yes the canteen will be open and our caterers have conducted a full risk assessment. The canteen will be open at break and lunch for a full service to all Key Stage 3 students. All Key Stage 4 students can access the canteen through a pre-order service daily. There will be a more limited menu on offer allow all Year Groups to access the provision.

**Q10. Will my child need to wear a face mask in school?**

The government has revised its guidance on face coverings for staff and children in Year 7 or above in England. Nationwide, while the government is not recommending face coverings are necessary, schools will have the discretion to require face coverings in communal areas if they believe that is right in their particular circumstances.

In addition, and consistent with WHO's new advice, the government will advise additional measures are taken in areas where the transmission of the virus is high. In these areas, defined as areas of national government intervention as [listed on gov.uk](#), the government's guidance will state face coverings should be worn by adults and pupils in secondary schools when moving around the school, such as in corridors and communal areas where social distancing is difficult to maintain. It will not be necessary to wear face coverings in the classroom, where protective measures already mean the risks are lower, and where they can inhibit learning.

All Blue Coat students will be issued with two blue, washable face masks on their first day back at school. We are strongly advising that these are worn in communal areas such as on corridors and in high density areas such as bus queues. Only Blue Coat issued face masks should be worn in school.

**Q11. Will my child be socially distanced at all time?**

Students will not be socially distanced within their year group bubble. They will be encouraged to socially distance where space allows e.g. outside and all available space will be used in classrooms. Students will all face the same direction in classrooms and face to face interactions will be avoided. Students will be required to socially distance from other Year Groups and staff when moving around the school site and we ask that you talk to your child about maintaining this practice outside of school.

**Q12. Will there be after school extra-curricular clubs such as homework club?**

Yes although these won't start for a few weeks whilst we implement the new rules on site.

**Q13. Can I come into school if I have a concern?**

You will be able to come on to the school site if you have an appointment booked (we will try to offer virtual meetings when possible) but you must call or email and arrange an appointment before coming in to school. This is essential in order for us to adhere to the Government tracing and testing regime.

**Q14. Will my child be issued with exercise books?**

Yes, students will receive exercise books for their subjects and they will bring these home with them. Students are responsible for making sure they bring the correct books with them each day.

**Q15. Will my child have to go to the toilets to wash their hands every lesson?**

No, each year group bubble has an allocated zone during social time and corresponding toilets, however we will be using hand sanitiser throughout the day to support with good hand hygiene. Hand sanitiser is in all classrooms and we also advise children to bring their own.

**Q16. I have several children at the school, can they see each other and interact during the day as they are from the same household?**

Students in different year groups will not be able to mix or interact when in school, this is to support the integrity of the Year Group bubbles and help with the management of these bubbles. We would also ask that you support us with this on public transport as we will ask students to sit in year group spaces on all school buses.

**Q18. My child (or a member of our household) is shielding, is my child expected in school?**

The current guidance is that all adults and children will be able to return to school in September with the measures that are in place. If this guidance changes we will update you.

**Q19. What do I do if my child or a member of our household has COVID symptoms?**

Your child/ren should remain at home and the symptomatic person should arrange for a COVID-19 test. You should inform the school.

**Q20. Will my child be able to fill their water bottle up in school?**

Yes as we have employed extra cleaning staff to enable them to do so. However they will not be allowed to drink directly from the water fountains. We also advise students to bring a full water bottle to school to reduce the need to use the fountains.

**Q21. Will my child study all of their options subjects?**

Yes, however there may be limitations on the practical elements of courses when starting the Autumn Term.

**Q22. Will my child's lessons be in the usual classrooms?**

Students will be based in a zoned area of the school but will move classrooms within this zone as required. Sixth Form students will have lessons in various locations around the school site to accommodate their options, this will not interfere with other Year Group zones.

**Q23. Will my child be in their normal groups for lesson or will they remain in their tutor group all day?**

Students will continue to be taught in sets or option groups when this is normal practice for the subject.

**Q24. Will the behaviour policy change?**

There will be an updated behaviour policy addendum shared for the Autumn Term via our website.

**Q25. Will there be catch up sessions if my child has fallen behind with their learning over lockdown?** There will be no additional sessions to start the term, we will be focusing on consolidation of learning and addressing gaps in knowledge and understanding via quality first teaching in lesson.

**Q.27 My child has started new in the sixth form. Where are they based?**

There are approximately 40 students in the sixth form joining us from other schools in Year 12. They will be based in the main Sixth Form building which is on the left as you enter school site.

**Q.28 Our pre-booked holiday to France means that we will not return to the UK until the 31<sup>st</sup> August. Can I still send my child into school on the 3<sup>rd</sup> September?**

No, please keep your child at home in line with the government guidance. If you have been abroad over the summer please ensure that your child is eligible to return in line with government guidance. This is essential to keep our school community safe.

**Q26. My question was not answered here, what do I do?**

Email your question to [schooloffice@bluecoatschool.com](mailto:schooloffice@bluecoatschool.com) and we will update these questions at regular points.

Thank you for taking the time to read these FAQs, we hope they have been of use.

August 2020