



BAMBURGH SCHOOL

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16th July 2020

Dear Parent,

As the summer break approaches, we would like to take this opportunity to update you on the plans for the return of all pupils in September, in line with the current government guidance received on 02/07/20.

Our priority is to continue to minimise risk, ensuring that all pupils have access to the full curriculum where it is safe to do so. Whilst the 2 metre rule is no longer being implemented amongst pupils, we will still be encouraging limited contact and limited sharing of equipment, unless it can be cleaned between uses. Where 1-1 support is required in particular, we will be ensuring that all recommended safety measures are in place for both staff and pupils, to allow learning to continue.

You will be aware that over recent weeks school has divided pupils into lots of small 'bubbles' of no more than 6 children. To allow us to invite all children back in September, we will no longer be organising our groups in this way, and pupils will be taught in their normal class groups with a maximum of 12 pupils. Bigger bubbles (consisting of several classes) will be put in place, to ensure that we are able to follow the new social distancing measures required in the government guidelines.

Our primary and secondary children will be kept separate to minimise contact. We have created 4 separate bubbles according to the age of pupils:

Key Stage 1 Bubble - Birch, Tulip and Honeysuckle classes.

Key Stage 2 Bubble - Willow, Sycamore, Hawthorn, Holly and Mulberry classes.

Key Stage 3 Bubble - Yr7, Yr8 and Yr9 classes.

Key Stage 4 Bubble - Yr10 and Yr11 classes.

Each bubble will have its own yard at break and lunchtime, and its own time-slot in the dinner hall. Pupils from one bubble will not mix with those from the other bubbles at any time. They will, however, mix with the pupils in their own bubble. This will allow us to put pupils into ability groups with pupils from other classes, where this will help with their education.

Generic Special School for Pupils with Medical & Emotional Conditions



The times of the school day have had to change slightly for each group, to allow us to have separate drop off and pick up times of the four bubbles. This means that we can limit the number of pupils arriving at or leaving school at the same time. It also allows each bubble separate use of the dinner hall and outdoor spaces at breaktime.

The primary day will more or less run according to the times in place currently, with a slightly adjusted start and finish time, which will be 8.55am and 2.55pm in September. The day will then run as follows:-

8.55 - 10.15am Lesson time
10.15 - 10.40am Break and snacktime
10.40 - 11.30/45am Lesson time
11.30 - Start of lunch for KS1
11.45-12.15pm Staggered lunch sittings for KS2
12.15. - 12.45pm Playtime.
12.45 - 2.55pm Lesson time

A slightly bigger change in the timing of the school day will be put into place for our secondary children, who will start at 8.45am and finish at 3.10pm. Lunch will take place at 1.10pm.

All secondary children will be taught in their own form room and will only move classrooms to access the practical lessons. Subject teachers will move from group to group to deliver lessons. Where any pupils require 1-1 support, staff may wear clear visors.

Across the whole age range, pupils will be expected to have their own equipment, pens, pencils rulers etc, which they will keep on their desk. This equipment will be supplied by school.

All children will be expected to return to school wearing full uniform. We would encourage you to provide a clean polo top and jumper each day for your child to wear, if possible. We appreciate that this can be difficult. However we also know that regularly changing clothes reduces the risk of the virus spreading, so your co-operation with this request is one of the ways in which you can help us to protect your children.

To avoid pupils changing for PE, would like all children to attend school in their PE kit on the days they have a PE lesson. This will limit contact between pupils in changing rooms, and also reduce the need for staff to support pupils to change their clothes. Your child will receive a timetable highlighting the days when they get PE lessons.

School dinners will resume as normal from the beginning of next term. Should you need to apply for free school meals, please contact the school office. Otherwise meals can be paid for through our online payment system, ParentPay.

We hope that all therapies and input from external services will resume in September. However, we are currently awaiting further guidance and risk assessments to support this.

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The government has informed us that, from September, attendance procedures will be reinstated and all children will be expected to be in school. Those not attending will once again need to provide medical evidence or details of extenuating circumstances to support absence. Failure to do so may result in the LA Attendance Team taking action. This is not a situation that we would wish any of our families to have to deal with. So if you are concerned about your child returning and have no medical guidance to state that they should stay at home, please contact school as soon as possible to share your concerns. We will offer reassurance where we are able to, and may also be able to suggest some measures which will allow your son/daughter to return in the safest way possible.

GCSE Exam Results Day for our current Year 11 pupils is on Thursday 20th August. Staff will be available in school between 10am and 12pm. If your child would like to come in, he/she can collect the exam results. If they are unable to attend, please let us know and we can mail the results out to you. However, given that we only receive the results in school on the 20th August, please allow for an extra couple of days to receive them by post.

Should you require further information about the procedures detailed above, please contact school and we will do our best to answer all questions and put your mind at ease. Ultimately, as you are all aware, school can never be totally risk free, however we will follow all of the government guidance available at any given time, and put measures in place to minimise risks for pupils and staff as far as possible.

Please note: in some unavoidable circumstances the arrangements above may be subject to change (for example, where government guidelines change, or where external transport providers have difficulty with the new times for the school day). We will inform you of any changes.

We are very much looking forward to having all our pupils back in school. Until then, take care, keep safe and have a happy holiday!

Mr Nord, Mrs Nichol and Ms Chamberlain

Senior Leadership Team

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