



St Katherine's School



27 August 2020

Dear Parents and Carers,

We are very much looking forward to welcoming your child(ren) back to St Katherine's in September and as outlined at the end of Term 6, there are a number of changes to our daily routines for our whole community. Whilst many students, (and parents/carers) are very excited about the return to school, we recognise this will be a time of anxiety and worry for some within our community. Our large pastoral team is ready to support your child(ren) as they return to school and I encourage you to make contact should you have any concerns about reopening.

Mrs K Crocker (Safeguarding)	<a href="mailto:crockerk@skdrive.org">crockerk@skdrive.org</a>
Mrs J Ball (Transition Manager)	<a href="mailto:ballj@skdrive.org">ballj@skdrive.org</a>
Mr A Thomas (Stephenson House)	<a href="mailto:thomasa@skdrive.org">thomasa@skdrive.org</a>
Ms E Andrews (Yousafzai House)	<a href="mailto:andrewse@skdrive.org">andrewse@skdrive.org</a>
Mr I Murdoch (Pankhurst House)	<a href="mailto:murdochi@skdrive.org">murdochi@skdrive.org</a>
Mrs H Price (Turing House)	<a href="mailto:priceh@skdrive.org">priceh@skdrive.org</a>

The government expectation is for all students to return to full-time schooling from the beginning of the new academic year. Should you have any concerns about your child's return to school, please contact their Head of House in the first instance. We have a number of control measures in place throughout the school day to ensure students and staff are as safe as possible. Our comprehensive risk assessment is available on our [website](#).

### **Year group bubble and designated areas within school**

All year groups will remain in their year group bubble to avoid unnecessary mixing of pupils. Students in different year groups will be expected to remain at least two metres away from one another; those in the same year groups will be able to mix more freely. Each year group has been assigned their own area of the school as below:

<b>Year Group</b>	<b>Block</b>
Year 7	English block
Year 8	Humanities block
Year 9	MFL block
Year 10	Art block
Year 11	Maths block
Years 12 & 13	Sixth Form plus allocated classrooms for Sixth Form only

Staff will be on duty in these areas from 8.35 in the morning. We would ask that, wherever possible, students do not arrive on site before this time. If it is unavoidable that your child arrives before 8.35 please inform their Head of House. They will need to wait in our canteen before making their way to their designated block at 8:35. **Pupils must not congregate in any other area of the school site and we ask that parents/carers to visit by appointment only.**

### School day

We have made some changes to the school day to allow us to minimise movement around the school site.

- PM tutor time replaced with a thirty minute tutor time in the morning.
- Lessons have been reduced by five minutes to allow staff to move between classrooms.
- In years 7-9, students will remain in their tutor groups for the majority of lessons and will not move between classrooms.
- To allow for the full delivery of our GCSE curriculum, those in Year 10 and 11 will sometimes move between classrooms but will remain in their year group bubbles. Specialist rooms, such as science labs, will be booked by staff as required to deliver the curriculum.

Time	Activity
8:55 - 9:25	Tutor Time and DEAR
9:25 - 9:30	Transition
9:30 - 10:25	Period 1
10:25 - 10:45	Break
10:45 - 11:40	Period 2
11:40 - 11:45	Transition
11:45 - 12:40	Period 3
12:40 - 13:15	Lunch
13:15 - 14:10	Period 4
14:10 - 14:15	Transition
14:15 - 15:10	Period 5
15:10 - 15:20	Staggered Departure 15:10 - Year 7 & Sixth Form 15:13 - Year 8 15:16 - Year 9 15:18 - Year 10 15:20 - Year 11

The safety of all members of our community remains our priority; to reopen school as safely as possible will require all staff, students and parents/carers to work together. Please take time to discuss the following with your child prior to their return to school:

- All students will be expected to demonstrate our core values of **respect** and **responsibility** for their own behaviour at all times and particularly during lesson transitions when staff will be moving between classrooms.

- Students must remain in their allocated areas throughout the school day. At lunch and break times, all year groups have designated indoor and outdoor areas.
- **For the safety of all, attendance at school is dependent on adhering to our risk assessment.** This means that any member of the community displaying any symptoms of COVID-19 must not attend. We will require evidence of a negative test result before returning to site. I am confident the vast majority of our students understand the concerns that their peers will have around the virus and will conduct themselves appropriately, being **responsible** and **respectful** to others at all times. It is imperative that all students understand that any instance of, for example, coughing 'in jest', will be treated as a suspected case.
- If your child, or anyone in your household is showing any of the following symptoms of COVID-19:
  - a new, persistent cough
  - a high temperature
  - a loss or change to their sense of taste or smell

please **do not send them to school**. A test should be booked via the NHS: <https://www.nhs.uk/conditions/coronavirus-covid-19/testing-and-tracing/get-a-test-to-check-if-you-have-coronavirus/>

### Equipment

From September, students will be expected to take their exercise books home with them to support their home learning. To support your child's progress, they will receive feedback on work that is completed on paper. This will be returned to your child in class to allow them to respond to the feedback. Please support your child in being prepared for their lessons each day with the correct books and equipment. We have limited supplies to support those unprepared and our risk assessment prohibits students from sharing equipment with one another. **Therefore it is essential that students arrive at school with a plain coloured backpack in which to carry their personal equipment and books.** An equipment list is detailed in this [letter](#).

### Getting to school

We encourage students to walk or cycle where possible and appreciate this is not an option for many of our students. If cycling, a cycle helmet must be worn. Any student using a public service or our school buses to travel to and from school must wear a face covering for the duration of the journey. Those on school buses **must sit in their assigned seat** to avoid the mixing of bubbles and seat belts must be worn at all times. See full details of our buses in this [letter](#).

Students in Long Ashton will continue to travel on the usual home to school transport provided by North Somerset.

### Face coverings in school

On Tuesday the government updated their guidance on the wearing of face coverings in school.

*"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.*

Our local area has experienced a relatively low rate of COVID-19 infection and transmission rates and our risk assessment outlines clearly our systems of control along with the precautions we are taking as a school to minimise any risk. Therefore, inline with the national guidance we will not be making the wearing of face coverings mandatory in any area of the school and would welcome a 'normal' environment within classrooms to support effective learning.

However, we recognise that some students and staff will feel more comfortable wearing a face covering in corridors and/or in the classroom and this is a personal choice and one which we respect. Please note any face covering must be plain in appearance without any overt logo or motif and must be worn appropriately and sensibly at all times. Anyone with a face covering is expected to follow the [government guidance on wearing face coverings safely](#). Any student intentionally misusing a face covering will be required to take it off.

We will continue to review our guidance in light of any further updated guidance and/or changes in the local situation.

### **Canteen**

We will be operating separate serving areas for each year group to maintain the integrity of our year bubbles. Students will be directed to their designated areas. Students may wish to bring a packed lunch with them. Any pupil in receipt of Free School Meals will receive their lunch as normal. Parents/Carers should continue to use ParentPay to add money to their child's account. We will be using names to lookup student accounts for payment, avoiding the use of biometric scanners.

### **Uniform**

On days on which students have PE, they should come to school in their PE kit; for comfort on buses and around the site during the day, boys and girls from Year 7-11 are encouraged to wear black jogging bottoms or their school trousers over their shorts/skort. Year 7 students should be in PE kit on Friday 4 September. On all other days, we expect students to be in full uniform.

### **Behaviour expectations and Ready to Learn**

We will continue to expect the highest standards of engagement and conduct in lessons, reflecting our core values of respect, responsibility and resilience. The quality of our classroom learning environment has improved over the last two years and we will continue to focus on providing an environment free from disruption. With a significant reduction in low level disruption in classes, we are making some adjustments. We have listened carefully to the feedback from parents/carers and students and believe these adjustments will maintain our standards and reduce the time spent out of classrooms for those that have made a mistake.

- If a student is sent to Ready To Learn, students will be given time to reflect on what caused them to be removed from the classroom. Once we are confident they have reflected on their conduct and take responsibility for their actions, a member of duty staff will allow a student to return to lessons providing they are confident the student will return in a positive frame of mind and without causing any further disruption to the learning environment.
- No student will return to the lesson from which they have been referred.
- A student that is referred to the Ready To Learn room will lose their social time at lunchtime.
- A second referral in a day will mean a student does not return to lessons on that day.
- If a student is repeatedly referred to the Ready To Learn room, parents/carers will be invited to attend a meeting to discuss how we can address our concerns and what home and school can do to support the student in improving their behaviour.

Our school behaviour policy is being amended to include specific reference to not following our COVID 19 control measures that the school has put in place. Students who ignore these measures will face consequences. Persistent breaches will result in our full range of consequences as detailed in our behaviour policy. We trust you will understand and support the need to have a zero tolerance approach in this area to protect the safety and welfare of all students and staff.

**Chromebooks**

If your child(ren) has had access to one of our Chromebooks during the recent closure to support them with their learning@home, please ensure they return it to the Student Support Office or IT Office in the library upon their return.

**Winter Flu Vaccinations for Year 7 students**

The Department for Health and Social Care has recently announced an expansion to the winter flu vaccination programme to include students in Year 7. Further details for Year 7 parents/carers will follow next week.

We are ready and excited for students to begin returning next week and look forward to welcoming our new Year 7 students as they complete their induction to St Katherine's on Thursday and Friday.

Kind regards



Justin Humphreys  
**Headteacher**