



OLD BUCKENHAM
HIGH SCHOOL

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4th June 2020

Dear Parents and Carers

Firstly, can I thank all parents and carers for their support for the school and young people during this difficult time. As we move into the next phase of reopening the school, we need to be clear about the challenges this difficult stage will present, and mindful of our purpose. Throughout this process, we will endeavour to ensure that the well-being and safety of our students and staff are paramount and balanced against the need to broaden the engagement of our young people in meaningful learning.

Below I have outlined our plans for the delivery of the Year 10 curriculum, and the re-opening of the school to Year 10 students as of the 15th June. Our approach is responding to the National directives regarding face-to-face contact for Year 10 and is underpinned by our core values.

I recognise the difficulties that some of our students might have in accessing the support and resources available to them at this time ranging from transport issues, to shared devices or limited internet access, or additional responsibilities within the home. We believe that our approach offers students equitable and fair learning opportunities without advantaging one student, only to disadvantage another.

It is important to also state, before we get bogged down by details, that the re-opening of the school offers us an opportunity to reconnect with our students, celebrate their achievements and support them further both academically and pastorally. Sometimes, during this strange and challenging time, the rules and regulations can overshadow and cloud the message that we cannot wait for things to be back to normal, and for the day to day hustle and bustle of the OBHS community to resume. We appreciate that while some parents and students might be keen to be back at school now, others will be reluctant or unable to for a set of reasons. Although the school is re-opening for Year 10, it is important to make it clear that school will look and feel very different to any student who does choose to return over the Summer Term.

Teaching and Learning – The Delivery of the Year 10 Curriculum from June 15th

We will continue to deliver our Year 10 curriculum using the same methods and platforms. Work will continue to be set on Go4Schools, with resources continuing to be shared on Go4Schools, SharePoint, Microsoft Teams or via school emails as has been the case during this period of lockdown and remote learning. Work submission and student feedback from the teachers will also continue in the same way as previously.



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In addition, we will be running a timetable of live video lessons each week for students to attend on Microsoft Teams. These live video lessons will be recorded and uploaded on to Microsoft Teams for all students to also access at any time. We understand that it might be difficult for a student to attend all of the lessons according to the timetable, and that being able to access them at their own convenience might be more appropriate. These live lessons will start on Monday June 15th. More details will follow. Please contact us as soon as possible if there are any technical difficulties or issues.

Summer Task:

- Instead of an end of Year 10 exam, all Year 10 students will complete a task for each subject by the end of the Summer Term demonstrating and celebrating learning undertaken.
 - The task will not be assessed using KS4 grading criteria or mark-schemes.
 - Students will receive further information about this from subject teachers by Monday 15th June.

In-School Provision:

In addition to the online package detailed above, we would like to offer students the opportunity to attend school one day a week for Core subject and Pastoral tutorials starting Monday June 15th.

- The purpose of the academic Core subject tutorials will be to *recap, reteach* and *reinforce*. These tutorials are an opportunity for students to work with a subject specialist for English, Maths and Science to support their home learning and ensure that they feel prepared for September.
- The focus of the Pastoral tutorials will be on coaching and goal setting to keep students on track and motivated during this time, to support their wellbeing and prepare them for September.

How will this work?

Student Groups

- Any student attending school for an Academic and Pastoral tutorial day will be assigned a day to attend school each week, and this day cannot be changed. This means that they will only come into contact with other students within that group, and not the wider population. We will place students into a group based on a range of information and so we will be unable to fulfil any personal requests.
- There will be a maximum of 25 Year 10 students in each day.



The Organisation of the Day

- The school will be following all social distancing and other Health and Safety guidance as issued by the Department of Education and Sapientia Education Trust. A full risk assessment has been completed and is available upon request.
- The school day will start at 9.00am and finish at 1.00pm. Students must not be on the school site before 08:50am in the morning and must be collected at 1.00pm.
- Each tutorial session will last for 50 minutes.
- There will be a 10-minute comfort break between each session to allow students to use the designated toilets should they need to.
- Students will have a 50-minute English, Maths, Science and Pastoral tutorial over the course of the day. During the academic tutorials, students will be able to ask questions and receive guidance to keep them on track with their learning.
- Any student who would normally have a free-school meal will be given their packed lunch at the end of the school day.

The School Site

- Students will enter and exit the school via the Old School Main Entrance. This can be accessed via the staff car park to the North of the site. *If you continue on Abbey Road, past the main school entrance, the road swings round to the right and you will see the back of the school buildings to your right. The car park and Old School Main Entrance are here.*
- Students will remain in their allocated teaching space for the duration of the school day. The subject teachers will rotate and enter the room for the allocated session.
- Students will have access to the boys' and girls' changing room toilets throughout the day, and the outside quad area for fresh air.
- Students will not have access to any other rooms within the school site, nor the school field etc.

Equipment and Resources

- Students need to bring their own essential stationery items and equipment with them to school. We will be unable to loan any stationery items to students. They must also not loan equipment to one another.
- Students to attend in appropriate non-school uniform that is machine washable as this will be necessary after school attendance. Footwear should be soft-soled or trainers to protect spaces used.
- Students will have access to a school laptop while in school. These will remain within the allocated teaching space and with the same student for the duration of the day. All equipment will be wiped down thoroughly at the end of each day.



Our Expectations

- The normal school behaviour policy will be followed in addition to further expectations around social distancing. <https://www.gov.uk/coronavirus>
- Students who are unable to follow the government guidelines around social distancing will be no longer able to attend school. This decision will be made by the Headteacher and will be final.

Specific Guidance around Covid19 and symptoms

- Students who exhibit symptoms of Covid19 during the school day will be isolated immediately and arrangements will be made for them to be collected as soon as possible.
- If any students develop symptoms of Covid19 during the school day, all parents and carers will be contacted and further guidance given.
 - Parents will need to provide an emergency contact who is available at all times during the school day.

This advice may change pending further updates from the government.

Transport

1. Private arrangements – we would encourage parents and carers to make private transport arrangements for students. See information above regarding drop-off times and points.
2. NCC Transport – students entitled to free transport will be given access to a limited option of bus routes.
3. Thetford Minibus – a limited number of paid places for Year 10 students on the minibus are available to parents at between £10-14 per day.

Next Steps

It is very important that all parents and carers complete the attached Form by Friday 5th June in order for us to make arrangements.

<https://forms.office.com/Pages/ResponsePage.aspx?id=v6-dBbdWh0-RSFvJSr2jtesR38nkaR5Gq0Mvd7lrlfxUM0owNDg3OFpWU1hISkk2NVI2TzRNQUxRvi4u>

While clearly, arrangements will feel far from normal, we look forward to welcoming back some of our Year 10 students. However, we entirely respect your decision as parents if you choose to not send your child back to school at this time. Our commitment to you is to provide the very best whole-school experience as possible whether that be in school, or at home. Our dedicated Pastoral and Teaching teams remain keen to be in close contact with you and your child. We all hope that everyone will be able to return in September. As



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always, do please contact me if you have any concerns or questions you wish to discuss further.

Yours sincerely,



Mr A Fell
Headteacher

