

RE-OPENING OF RUGBY HIGH SCHOOL FROM SEPTEMBER 2020

FREQUENTLY ASKED QUESTIONS FOR PARENTS AND STUDENTS

All documents referred to can be found on the school website.

In planning for the safe return of our staff and students, we have followed government guidelines carefully as the Health and Safety of our school community is paramount. We hope that the following information will answer many of the questions you may have about your return to school. As with all plans, these can be subject to change, due to national and local factors, should this be a necessity we will contact students and parents outlining any changes or adaptations.

Travelling to School

The government is encouraging students to either cycle or walk to school to reduce the numbers on public transport. Where that is not possible and a student has to travel by bus, face masks must be worn. Some pupils in Year 12 and 13 will now be able to drive however; they should not be bringing other students with them, unless they are from the same household. There will be no parking available for Year 12 and 13 students on the school site.

1) What will the routines be like for the start and end of the day?

Students should arrive in good time for the start of the school day at 8.50am. Students will enter via the front gate and the gate located at the bus bay. Students will be directed to handwashing stations within the school site and after handwashing will go directly to their form room, in their year group base. The visitors' car park will be closed off each morning until 9.30am and at the end of the school day to ensure the safety of our students who will be crossing the car park to access sinks located outside the Sports Hall. At the end of the day students will wash hands and will leave the site via the same gates. Students waiting for school buses will wait in year group bubbles in and close to the bus bay. Staff will be on duty to ensure both the safe arrival and departure of students from the site.

Please note that due to maintaining limited numbers of visitors to the site, parents will not be permitted in the school buildings. Where necessary any essential meetings will take place via Microsoft Teams at a pre-arranged time.

2) How will you limit the number of students mixing with each other?

Students will be put in groups (bubbles) of teaching or form groups within their own year group. They will stay in their bubble throughout the day both during lesson time and during breaks. Members of staff will be around to supervise the students to ensure that this happens.

3) What arrangements will be made to ensure social distancing?

We appreciate that maintaining social distancing on site will be challenging, but we will put special arrangements in place on the school site to ensure that students and pupils can move around safely at all times. For example, a one-way system will be in operation around the school buildings.

At the start of the day, staff will speak to students about the importance of social distancing. Any student that repeatedly and deliberately disobeys the rules will be sent home.

In the classroom

4) How will the school day be structured?

The school day will run broadly as normal, but you are very likely to receive the majority of your lessons in a single classroom to minimise movement around the site. We will ensure students have access to specialist rooms when they are available, but with increased frequency of cleaning, it is to be assumed that you will not have the all your music lessons in the music room for example. Use of communal spaces (canteen, hall and old gym) at break and lunchtimes will be staggered, and students will not be able to socialise between year groups, to maintain "bubbles." Details will be shared on your first day back in September.

5) How many students will be in each class?

Following DFE guidance class sizes are likely to be what we would normally expect at RHS, so anywhere between 20 and 31 in the main school.

6) Will the students have their normal class teachers?

In the majority of cases, it is our intention that students will be taught by a subject specialist, and their usual timetabled classroom teacher. There may be unavoidable substitutions on a rolling basis, as guidance for staff health and wellbeing changes.

There will also be some support staff who will supervise students during the school day such as at lunchtime and during break. The full pastoral team will be on hand to provide pastoral support.

7) What will the classroom arrangements be?

Students will be taught in a designated area of the school to minimise the distance they have to walk around the site. Groups will be allocated a specific classroom and desks will be front facing and as far apart as space allows to ensure social distancing in line with the current DFE guidance.

Students in years 7 - 9 will be allocated a particular desk that they will use throughout the day. Students in Years 10 – 13 will move between classrooms in their allocated year group areas so that staff can deliver the different option subjects. Tissues, bins and antibacterial hand gel will be available in every classroom for students to use.

8) Will any communal spaces be shared by students?

The Government has said that mixing should continue to be limited, and students should be socially distanced, keeping students apart from each other wherever possible. However, there will be some shared use of building entrances, toilets/hand washing facilities and the canteen spaces and hall. Each bubble will have an allocated time for use of the canteen spaces and hall. These spaces will be cleaned between year group sittings.

9) What will happen at break and lunchtime?

We will have three canteen areas across the school, allowing students at break and lunchtime students to eat their food in their bubbles, whilst maintain social distancing. To keep queuing for food to a minimum we would urge you to order and pay for your child's meal from the canteen in advance. Students may bring a packed lunch and a breaktime snack if preferred.

Please note that for Health and Safety reasons water dispensers will not be available and so your child will not be able to re-fill their water bottles in school.

10) What should students wear to school?

Students should wear school uniform, in line with the school uniform policy. (The Government advises that uniform does not need to be cleaned any more than normal or with any cleaning products that are different to what you ordinarily use.)

11) What should students bring to school?

There are some key pieces of equipment that students will need, as we will not be lending any out. You should make sure you have: pens, pencils, a ruler and a glue stick

a scientific calculator a protractor and pair of compasses

A4 paper. We will be issuing exercise books, but these will be for classwork. Any work you hand in will be completed on lined paper. You should, if possible make sure you have some A4 paper with you at all times. For students in years 7 – 11 we will provide a folder in which you can keep your day-to-day paper.

12) Should students bring a device?

If students are able to bring a laptop or tablet into school to access online resources, such as digital textbooks, and to submit work online should this be required, this would be highly recommended.

Health and Safety

13) What arrangements will be in place to ensure that the school site is clean?

Throughout the day, regular contact points (e.g. door handles, light switches, taps and toilets) will be routinely cleaned. All spaces used by staff and students will be thoroughly cleaned at the end of the day.

14) How will the school promote hygiene routines?

Students will be required to wash their hands on arriving in school and before they leave the premises. Regular reminders of hygiene standards will be given. We would encourage you to remind your child about the importance of hand washing and staff will reinforce this. Students will be asked to sanitise their hands, on arrival in each classroom.

15) Will staff/students need to wear face masks?

We will not be providing face masks for students. If you wish your child to wear one, they will need to manage the mask themselves. Some staff may choose to wear face masks and other PPE.

16) What happens if a student starts to display symptoms of Covid-19 or is otherwise unwell in school?

Please **DO NOT** send your child into school if they are unwell in any way. If they become unwell at school, they will be isolated and will need to be collected immediately.

17) What happens if there is a confirmed case of Covid-19 in the school?

Currently Government advice is that if anyone in the school becomes unwell with a new, continuous cough or a high temperature, or has a loss of, or change in, their normal sense of taste or smell (anosmia), they must be sent home and advised to follow 'stay at home: guidance for households with possible or confirmed coronavirus (COVID-19) infection', which sets out that they must self-isolate for at least 7 days and should arrange to have a test to see if they have coronavirus (COVID-19). Other members of their household (including any siblings) should self-isolate for 14 days from when the symptomatic person first had symptoms.

Any members of staff who have helped someone with symptoms and any pupils who have been in close contact with them do not need to go home to self-isolate unless they develop symptoms themselves (in which case, they should arrange a test) or if the symptomatic person subsequently tests positive (see below) or they have been requested to do so by NHS Test and Trace.

Everyone must wash their hands thoroughly for 20 seconds with soap and running water or use hand sanitiser after any contact with someone who is unwell.

If you have any further queries, please email: rhsadmin@rugbyhighschool.co.uk with the title 'Re-opening of the School' as the subject.

Thank you
Mark Grady
Head Teacher
15 July 2020