

Principal: Emma Robins



15 July 2020

Dear parent / carer,

The past 4 months have been totally unprecedented for all of us. We could not have imagined that we would be finishing the school year following a period of partial school closure, and everything that has been associated with COVID 19. I would like to congratulate all students on their commitment to completing work whether at home or in school. Everything you have done during this time will ensure you return confidently to school in September. A special well done to our Y10 students who have attended school since 15 June and who have also taken part in live tutorials online; this has been a new experience for us all but really useful to support learning.

I would also like to take this opportunity to thank all parents and carers for their continued support. It has been a hugely challenging time for all of us and we have worked hard to maintain open and regular communication. Thank you for engaging with us and working with us for the benefit of our students.

In September school will reopen to all students. We have planned carefully in line with guidance from the government (<https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/actions-for-schools-during-the-coronavirus-outbreak/guidance-for-full-opening-schools>) and are looking forward to welcoming all students. Things will be very different for all of us but we are confident that school will run smoothly and effectively. It will be important that everyone respects the new way of working. The key points for you and your children to remember are outlined here:

- Each year group will be a 'bubble' and will stay together at all times in school. Each year group will have their lessons in certain classrooms every day – their 'zone'.
- Students will not be allowed to mix with other year groups
- Each year group will have its own break and lunchtime at a different time. At break time students will not be able to buy food so will need to bring a snack from home. Hot and cold food will be available at lunchtime.
- Each year group will have its own entry and exit point to get on and off the school site
- Students will be expected to wear full uniform; we will also be asking students in different year groups to wear a coloured badge, which we will provide. This will help us to ensure year groups remain separate.
- Sanitiser will be available in each classroom. Students will be encouraged to wash hands regularly. Toilets and handwashing facilities will be available in each zone.
- Students should bring their own equipment to school and should not lend it to others.
- On the way to and from school students will be encouraged to remain within their 'bubble', whether they are walking, catching the bus or cycling. We would very much appreciate it if you would reinforce this at home.

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A detailed document, 'September 2020 – A Guide for Parents / Carers and Students', is attached to this letter. It has lots more detail for each year group and some Frequently Asked Questions. Please take the time to go through this useful document and to discuss it at home before the start of next term.

This week you will also receive a link to our Graham Gazette –please take a look at some of the things that have been happening this half term. I am again absolutely delighted that we continue to be able to celebrate great achievements even during lockdown. School reopens for Y7 on Tuesday 8 September and for all other year groups (Y8 – Y11) on Wednesday 9 September. Students should arrive by 8.40am, enter school through their assigned entrance and go to their zone.

Of course, in the current climate there is always the possibility that things could change. Should there be any changes to our proposed plans for September, we will write to you again. I would also urge you to keep watching our website for messages ([www.grahamschool.org](http://www.grahamschool.org)) and to follow us on Facebook (<https://www.facebook.com/GrahamSchoolOfficial>) and Twitter (<https://twitter.com/grahamschool>) where we regularly post updates.

Once again I would like to thank you for your continued support. I hope you enjoy the summer break and I look forward to working with you in the new school year.

Yours faithfully,

**Emma Robins**

Principal | Graham School