

The Green, Devizes, Wiltshire, SN10 3AG

**Principal: Mr Phil Bevan BSc, NPQH**

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**Devizes School**  
 & Sixth Form College

Raising aspirations, building futures

13<sup>th</sup> July 2020

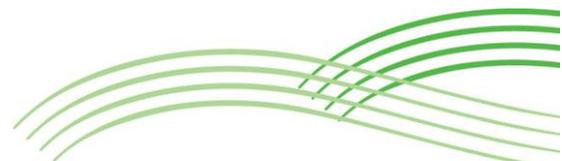
Dear Parents and Carers

Further to the letters sent last week, we are able to write with further details around the specifics of reopening in September. Firstly, we are happy to confirm the expectation that all students will be back at school, full-time. The following information will help you to make the return to school as smooth as possible: We are currently in the midst of processing the guidance issued by the Department for Education (full copy available here <https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/actions-for-schools-during-the-coronavirus-outbreak/guidance-for-full-opening-schools> ) and determining how we best apply this to Devizes School in line with our White Horse Federation protocols that were sent to you last week. It is important that the guidance is followed as closely as possible as the recommendations are designed to protect both students and staff from the spread of COVID-19.

**What we can confirm at this stage is the following:**

- Year 7 and Year 12 students will be expected to return to school on Thursday 3rd September 2020.
- On Friday 4th September we will welcome Years 7, 8, 11, 12 and 13
- On Monday 7<sup>th</sup> September all will be back (7,8,9,10,11,12 and 13)
- Year groups will be kept in 'bubbles' as much as possible. Different year groups will be allocated to different parts of the school, with the aim of limiting the contact that the different bubbles have with each other.
- Year groups will be based in zones around the school.
- Students will remain in these zones/classrooms for the majority of their lessons with some access to specialist classrooms. Teachers will move around from classroom to classroom this will be managed safely, and risk assessments will be thorough regarding the sanitisation and avoidance of cross-contamination.
- Obviously, we will have to adapt the curriculum, but staff are already working hard to plan for September.
- There will be no sharing of equipment so students will need to bring their own.
- The school day will run approximately the same as normal.
- Year groups will be given specific entrances to school.
- Students should walk to school where possible. School transport will continue to operate, and we are currently working closely with Wiltshire County Council school transport department regarding their planned provision, so that some physical distancing can take place on buses, keeping bubbles separate.
- Students that use public transport should consider alternative means where possible, as we are aware that capacity on public transport routes will be reduced.
- Transport between the Devizes and Lavington sites for 6<sup>th</sup> form will run as normal.
- Students will be returning in full school uniform. Our uniform supplier, Scholars, will remain open throughout the summer, the shop is open but operating under restricted access, so we advise that you order online.
- There will be a limited food offer. We will be recommending students bring a packed lunch.

Proud to be part of The White Horse Federation Multi-Academy Trust



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### **Other measures to keep everyone safe**

- When the more detailed risk assessment has been signed off by the estates team and the H&S advisor, this will be shared on the school website. In the meantime, I would like to reassure you that school will be putting in place the necessary protective/control measures to reduce the risk of contamination.
- Students will be required to comply with robust hand and respiratory hygiene, washing hands throughout the school day. Extra cleaning will also be taking place, including when any shared equipment will be necessary, such as in PE.
- Each year group will have specified toilet facilities and outside space to restrict any crossover of the bubbles.
- Classrooms will have, in line with government guidance, tables facing the front.
- If a student displays symptom of COVID-19 as outlined on the NHS website, they should stay at home, self-isolate and get tested, in line with government guidance. Students will be able to access online learning during this time.

The arrangements outlined are of course, subject to any further government announcements. In a large secondary school, putting these measures in place is not easy so further work on this will take place. As a leadership team and wider school staff, we will be working on the fine detail of the re-opening plans throughout the summer holiday. We will send further updates, the first on Monday 20<sup>th</sup> July and we then hope to be in a position to outline our final plans to you in more detail, around two weeks before school resumes for the Autumn term.

In the meantime, we would like to thank you for your continual support and wish you an excellent summer.

Yours sincerely

Mr Phil Bevan  
Principal

Mr Julian Morgan  
Principal (from September 2020)

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