

Principal: Lesley Welsh



15 July 2020

Dear Parent / Carer

Full reopening in September

I hope this finds you and your family safe and well. As we approach the end of the summer term and the end of your child's primary education, I wanted to give some guidance about our plans for September.

As you will be aware, the Government has announced that all students can return to school full time from September and we are looking forward to welcoming your child to George Pindar for the first time. There are several measures in place to ensure the health and safety of the school community and I would ask you to be aware of the following information which is relevant to your child to help us adhere to all guidelines set.

Your child starts school on **Tuesday 8 September at 8.35am**. We have been asked by the Department for Education to minimise contact between different groups of individuals and as such, your child's year group will form a 'bubble'. Students need to avoid any contact with students in different year groups and as such, Year 7 will be based in a smaller number of classrooms than they might have expected and teachers will move to the classrooms rather than students moving to teachers. Your child should enter school via the entrance on Pindar Road and staff will be on hand on the first day to point students in the right direction.

We encourage all students to walk or cycle to school; all students who use a cycle or scooter should use the Pindar Road entrance so they can access the bikesheds but please remember that the school accepts no responsibility for student equipment. Please remind your child to maintain a 2m social distance from children in other year groups who are using bikes or scooters.

If you intend to transport your child to school, please ensure that you park away from the school site and do not open your own car door to minimise risks of transmission of the Coronavirus. Please remind your child to maintain a 2m social distance from children in other year groups en route to the designated Year 7 entrance.

If your child uses public transport to get to school, a face covering must be worn. Students must not touch the front of their face covering during use or when removing them. They must wash their hands immediately on arrival, dispose of temporary face coverings in a covered bin or place reusable face coverings in a plastic bag they can take home with them and then wash their hands again before heading to the classroom. Your child should try to sit with other members of Year 7

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on public transport and avoid students from other year groups.

If your child uses NYCC-provided transport, face coverings need not be worn but efforts should be made to sit with other members of Year 7 and avoid students from other year groups.

From 9 September, your child should arrive at 8.35am as school does not open before this time and there is no breakfast club. Instead as part of a collaboration with the 'National School Breakfast Project – Covid response' students can collect a breakfast pack every fortnight to eat at home as part of their mission to ensure 'no child is too hungry to learn'. We hope many families take up this offer and you can confirm your order by email to news@gps.hlt.academy

On arrival at school your child must immediately sanitise using the sanitisers which are provided at every doorway – this should be done when entering and exiting every space. Rows in classrooms face the front and students must sit in the seat allocated by their teacher. A full range of subjects will be taught but students will not access their normal teaching rooms for all lessons.

In order to minimise transmission, students **must** bring their own equipment and wear their full school uniform. They will not be able to borrow items of equipment or uniform routinely and we ask all families to support us by ensuring that children are fully dressed and equipped for lessons. A reminder of our uniform requirements can be found here and we ask you to follow them closely: <http://georgepindarschool.org/uniform/> Please remember that only one pair of stud earrings can be worn (any other jewellery **must** be removed at home) and hair must be of a natural colour and style, with no haircuts of less than grade 3. Students need to bring the following equipment with them to school on a daily basis:

- At least two pens - four colour pens with blue, black, red and green are the most useful for work in school
- A pencil
- A ruler and a rubber
- A gluestick
- Some coloured pencils
- Some highlighters
- A scientific calculator
- The school planner (which will be distributed on the first day)
- A filled water bottle
- A snack for breaktime as there is no food for sale at this time
- PE kit on PE days – it will not be possible to borrow kit

Students will use an electronic system to pay for their meals but will not routinely be able to use the revaluer machine with their fingerprint to 'top up' their school accounts; therefore we encourage all families to use ParentPay to remotely add funds. An activation letter has been sent to you but should you have any queries, please contact hello@gps.hlt.academy for support.



A PowerPoint has been placed on the school website which gives more details about the school day and break / lunchtime arrangements from September which ensure that students and staff can adhere to social distancing guidelines. I would ask that you read this carefully and discuss the content with your child. A copy of the Risk Assessment in place for the full reopening is also available on the website for your perusal.

During these unprecedented times it is more vital than ever that students abide by our behaviour expectations. Our Positive Discipline policy, which aims to catch students doing the 'right thing', will be in operation from September but additionally, the Coronavirus Code of Conduct is vitally important. A copy is attached to this letter. Any student who is deemed to be knowingly breaking the code of conduct should expect sanctions.

In order to minimise transmission and for the health and safety of the entire school community, if your child, or anyone in your family, begins to display Coronavirus symptoms (a high temperature, a new, continuous cough, or a loss or change to your sense of smell or taste), please book a test at <https://www.nhs.uk/ask-for-a-coronavirus-test> It is vitally important that you inform school immediately if your child displays symptoms on 01723 582194 or via email to hello@gps.hlt.academy

We are really looking forward to welcoming your child to George Pindar; although there is a great deal of information here and many guidelines which we must follow, we cannot wait to finally meet your child. The first days will give many opportunities to get to know staff, other students and the school site and we hope that your child will feel fully reassured by the end of the first hour in school! We have planned a series of induction activities which we hope the students will enjoy working with other members of their tutor group. During the period of the Coronavirus school closure, teachers have been working hard to ensure that planned lessons from September are of the highest possible quality and will give your child a very successful secondary school experience. If you have any queries, please do not hesitate to contact school, with email our preferred mode of communication at this point to hello@gps.hlt.academy

As you are aware from the transition booklet, Miss Petts is the Head of Year 7 and you can contact her via email at b.petts@gps.hlt.academy I know she is looking forward to working with you and your child.

The last term has been far from normal. When the Prime Minister announced in March that schools would be closing, I did not anticipate that we would not have the opportunity to conduct our usual transition activities to help your child get ready for the move to secondary school. I hope you have managed to look at the resources on our school website which remain available throughout the summer break at: www.georgepindarschool.org/transition and staff would be delighted to receive any answers to the activities and quizzes which have been prepared via email.

The move to secondary school is a big moment in a child's life and I hope that this letter and our

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website can help alleviate any anxiety for your child. Should you have any queries or concerns, please do not hesitate to contact a member of our team and we will respond to you as soon as possible. I wish you and your families a safe and enjoyable summer break and look forward to meeting your child in September.

Yours sincerely

Lesley Welsh
Principal