



Dear Parents and Carers,

17th July 2020

September Opening Plans

First, we want to say that we are all so much looking forward to September when all students can return to school. We have missed our students, families and colleagues so much and it will be wonderful to all be back together working for our future in the Autumn term.

As you know, government guidance published last week confirmed that all children and young people in all year groups will return to school full time from the beginning of the autumn term, unless there is a statutory reason for children to be absent. This decision has been made because the prevalence of coronavirus (COVID-19) has decreased, the NHS Test and Trace system is operational and our collective understanding of the measures that need to be in place to create safer environments in schools has increased. However, it is important that you are confident we are doing everything we can to reduce the risks of transmission of the virus and ensure that St. Boniface's College can open safely and sensibly to all our students in the new academic year.

We have very successfully welcomed over 70% of Year 10 into school this term for several days of work under stringent health and safety systems and these have worked very well. The students were superb in complying with the new ways of moving around the school and we have learned a lot about how to manage all students' returning in September safely. We have been working hard to ensure this can happen and I am pleased to now be able to update you on our plans for return in September.

Dates of return for Year Groups in September

- New **Year 7 will return to school on Friday 4th September** and will have a day in school getting used to one way systems, hand washing and sanitising, social distance queueing and their year group zones within their new timetables
- New **Years 8 and 9 will return to school on Monday 7th September** and will join Year 7, learning the new systems and following their new timetables.
- New **Years 10 and 11 will return on Tuesday 8th September** and will join all other years so that all students will be in school from Tuesday 8th September.

Staggered entry, exit, break and lunch times

Times of entry and exit to the school have been staggered, as have breaks and lunchtimes, to enable a hot food service for all at two 30 minute breaks in the day, but in year group 'bubbles'. Year groups will not mix with each other in school during the day. Social spaces in the school, both indoors and outdoors are restricted to certain year groups during break and lunch times. The table below (on Page 2) shows you the plans for start and end of the day and for breaks for each year group.

- **Years 7, 8, 9 and 10 will arrive at school at 8.50am and leave at staggered times by 3.20pm.**
- **Year 11 will arrive at 9.15am and will stay late for tutor and Period 6 until 4.30pm.** Period 6 is compulsory for all Year 11 from Monday to Thursday every week to enable vital exam preparation and to cover missed curriculum time during this summer term.

New Year 7s will remain in mixed ability tutor groups in each classroom on the central floor of the A block for most of their curriculum and all teachers will come to them, to reduce movement around the school and because they can be kept in mixed ability groups for the first term. They will only move for PE and some occasional practical lessons in other subjects (e.g. experiments in Science, Practical Technology lessons).

St Boniface's Catholic College

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	Tutor	P1	P2 and B break 90			P3	P4 and L Lunch 90 min			P5	Tutor	P6
Time	8.50 - 9.15	9.15 - 10.15	10.15 - 10.45	10.45 - 11.15	11.15 - 11.45	11.45 - 12.45	12.45 - 1.15	1.15 - 1.45	1.45 - 2.15	Y7 = 2.15-3.10 Y8 = 2.15-3.15	3.20 - 3.30	3.30 - 4.30
Year 7	Tutor	60 mins	B30	60 mins	60 mins	L30	60 mins	55 mins	Leave 10 early			
Year 8	Tutor	60 mins	B30	60 mins	60 mins	L30	60 mins	60 mins	Leave 5 early			
Year 9	Tutor	60 mins	60 mins	B30	60 mins	30	L30	30	65 mins			
Year 10	Tutor	60 mins	60 mins	B30	60 mins	30	L30	30	65 mins			
Year 11		60 mins	30	L30	30	60 mins	60 mins	L30	60 mins + Tutor 15		60 mins	

Clubs

We will continue to run **Breakfast Club in the Dining Hall from 8.15am** each morning, but no student may enter School before 8.15am and then only to attend the Breakfast Club. Students in Breakfast Club must remain in the Dining Hall until the allocated time for their specific year group to go to Tutor or lessons. They must sit at social distance of at least 1m and in indicated year group spaces. All other students must attend School at their allocated time and not before. This will allow a controlled entry to School with handwashing routines enabled before the start of every day.

We are committed to continuing with as many extra-curricular clubs as possible, including MKC, Young Carers, Duke of Edinburgh, Library, some sports and Homework club, but we won't begin these until we are sure we can run each of them safely, so they will not resume immediately.

One-way systems and self-protection

- We have introduced a one-way system in school which must be strictly adhered to
- All classrooms have been arranged so that students will be front facing and sitting shoulder to shoulder if they cannot be 1m apart
- We have removed any unnecessary furniture so that teachers can have a 2m distance from students as they face them to teach.
- Students should be equipped with a clean face covering/mask so that where they cannot be forward facing in lessons such as Art and Technology, they can protect others
- After each group of students leave any classroom, the surfaces in every class will be disinfected by the teacher.
- Hand sanitiser will also be available at key points around the school, but students should provide themselves with freshly washed daily masks, tissues and hand sanitiser as an extra precaution.
- Students must bring their own equipment to school. There can be no sharing of equipment amongst students.
- If we need to use specific school equipment such as in Art, PE, Technology or Science it will be thoroughly cleaned between uses.

Cleaning

We have changed the employment times of our amazing cleaning team, so that they are here all day cleaning all regularly touched surfaces like door handles and hand rails and ensuring toilets and washing facilities are regularly cleaned and restocked. We will prop open every door that is not a fire door.

Catering

We have changed the times of our catering staff too so that they can continue to serve hot and cold food to all year groups, but we recommend that all students bring a packed lunch and snacks, if they can, to reduce pressure on the food queues, which will be socially distanced and slower. Only two year groups at a time will be on a break and they will be kept apart, each year will have 15 minute priority of the food queue for the canteen. The kind of food that can be served will be a little restricted but sandwiches, pasta, hot takeaway items, cakes, biscuits and cold drinks will all be available. We are considering a pre-order grab bag service that may speed up food delivery, depending on demand.

Water

It is important to drink enough water every day and this is permitted in lessons, but water fountains are a potential source of germ spreading, so we need to restrict their use. Please equip every student with 2 large clear full water bottles for every day. Water fountains will not be generally available for refills. No fizzy drinks or energy drinks are allowed. Water is the best hydrator.

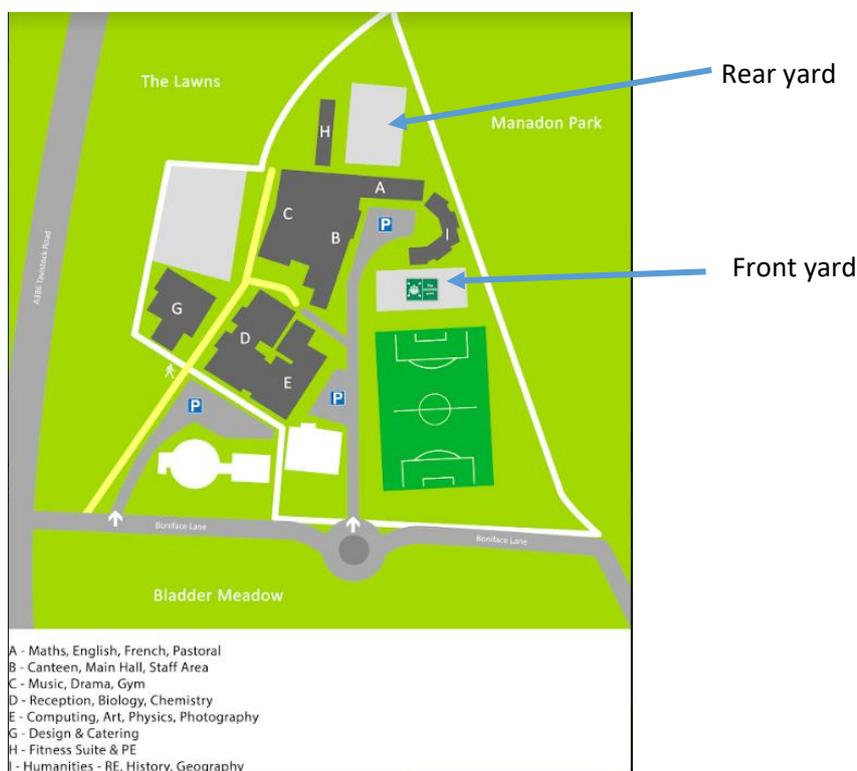
Zones for Year Groups

We will continue to adhere to what the government calls the 'system of controls' – the set of actions that schools must take – which are grouped into 'prevention' and 'response to any infection'. Many of the actions in the 'prevention'

section are very familiar to us from the guidance we've been following throughout the summer term: handwashing, 'catch it, bin it, kill it', enhanced cleaning, etc. The main differences are in the requirements around minimising contact and maintaining social distancing, wherever possible.

To support this ambition, we will make some small but important tweaks to the structure and timing of our school day, with new routines that will slightly alter the usual experience and an allocated **indoor and outdoor zone** of the site assigned to each year group for socialising and eating.

- **Year 7** – Dining hall for food (1st 15 minutes), breakout space for indoor relaxation in the dining hall and the rear yard for outdoor recreation
- **Year 8** – Dining hall for food (2nd 15 minutes), breakout space for indoor relaxation in the hall and the front yard for outdoor recreation
- **Year 9** – Dining hall for food (1st 15 minutes), breakout space for indoor relaxation in the dining hall and the rear yard for outdoor recreation
- **Year 10** – Dining hall for food (2nd 15 minutes), breakout space for indoor relaxation in the hall and the front yard for outdoor recreation
- **Year 11** – Dining hall for food, breakout space for indoor relaxation in the dining hall and the front yard for outdoor recreation



Student Wellbeing and Academic Progress

In addition to the safety measures set out above and the use of zoned year groups to prevent 'bubbles' from coming into close contact with each other wherever practicable, we are well prepared in terms of securing the wellbeing and academic progress of students. We recognise that there may be knowledge and understanding to be bridged when the students return in the autumn, and we have very carefully planned our curriculum so that we can assess and respond to need – both academic and emotional wellbeing - so that every child is able to flourish.

As much as possible, we want to maintain normality for our students and staff and ensure their learning and wellbeing is supported and hence we will run a full curriculum offer in line with each child's new timetable for September. All subjects will be offered as normal and delivered by subject specialists, and there will be no watering down of the curriculum intent or implementation.

Every child, and every home, has had a different experience of this period of closure and with home learning. Whilst we know most families will be delighted that schools are reopening, there may be some parents or children who feel anxious about returning: if this applies to you, please do not suffer in silence. Please contact us as soon as you can and we will work with you to ensure you have all the answers you need, to help you feel reassured and to address any concerns you might have.

Actions for families to help keep the school safe

Everyone will need to play a part in keeping the virus out of School and we will, of course, need your help to keep School safe as we return fully. We very much appreciate your support in working with us in a number of ways, including:

- If your child or somebody else in your household has Coronavirus symptoms, they must stay at home until tested and advised that they can return.
- Government guidance says that if there is a confirmed case at School then we should work with the relevant health authorities to ensure that everyone who was in close contact with them when they were infectious is notified and self-isolates for fourteen days – in reality, this is likely to be all students and staff they have been in a classroom with.
- We request that students avoid going into shops or cafes on the way into School and that they walk or cycle to School if they possibly can. If they have absolutely no option but to use public transport, they should wear a face covering while travelling which is in line with current government advice.
- Prepare your child adequately by reinforcing the importance of good hygiene routines, such as sanitising and washing hands regularly. Also discuss the ways in which School will be different and the importance of adhering to expectations and routines.
- Send your child to School on time having had a good breakfast, with their correct equipment, a packed lunch and 2 full water bottles and dressed in the full St. Boniface's College uniform, but wearing PE kit on PE days will be permissible all day to avoid congestion in PE changing rooms.
- Understand that the times of the day, groupings and the allocated time for entry/exit to School are non-negotiable due to safety and operational reasons.

FAQs

We hope we have addressed the majority of your questions about the return plan and we will issue FAQs in September which will be updated regularly. Please forward any questions you have that are unanswered and we can add them to the list to make sure you are fully informed.

Undoubtedly, the lockdown period has proven challenging for us all, but the resilience and strength of our community throughout has been a joy to behold. Families and staff have pulled together to ensure our children felt safe and supported, and we have shown just how much can be achieved in the most difficult and challenging of circumstances.

The safety and wellbeing of all members of our community remains of paramount importance to us and I hope this letter serves to reassure you of the thoroughness with which we approach our thinking. As always, we are keen to hear from you and to receive feedback, so please do contact us with any questions.

We are very much looking forward to welcoming all our staff and students back to School in September so we can be together as a whole school community once again.

On behalf of all staff and governors, we want to thank you for everything you have done to support your children's success over this period.

Yours sincerely,



Mrs K White
Acting Headteacher

LORD, GIVE US THE REST AND REFRESHMENT WE NEED THIS SUMMER.

LET OUR EFFORTS OF THIS PAST YEAR BEAR FRUIT.

WITH THE FULFILMENT OF OUR SUMMER HOPES AND DREAMS.

WATCH OVER US IN THE WEEKS OF REST AHEAD,

AND GUIDE EACH DAY AS YOU HAVE DONE THIS PAST YEAR.

HELP US RETURN TO SCHOOL WITH A NEW SPIRIT AND A NEW ENERGY.

MAY WE CONTINUE TO GROW IN AGE, WISDOM, KNOWLEDGE AND GRACE

ALL THE DAYS OF OUR LIVES. AMEN.