



July 2020

Dear Parents/Carers

I would like to take this opportunity to thank you for your support over the last four months. It has been a period of unprecedented challenge and as a community we have worked together to ensure that all our young people have continued to develop and make academic progress.

You will be aware we will be welcoming back all our students in September. To ensure that our students are kept safe we have adapted the Local Authority's Risk Assessment that takes account of the government guidance which can be found here <https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/actions-for-schools-during-the-coronavirus-outbreak/guidance-for-full-opening-schools>. This Risk Assessment is a live document that will continue to be updated and can be found on our website here <https://www.seafordhead.org/policies>.

We are extremely excited at the prospect of our students returning and the on-site provision that we have maintained throughout lockdown has highlighted how keen they are to return to school. I would like to thank staff, students and their families for going "above and beyond" during the lockdown period. The engagement of Year 10 and 12 students has been outstanding and our 6th formers successfully completed their end of year examinations in typically determined fashion. It was also very important to us that students progressing into Year 7 and Year 9 were given the opportunity to familiarise themselves with their new surroundings. I would also like to recognise the effort of our key worker children. Whilst their parents/carers were keeping vital services running, they were in school behaving in an exemplary manner and following all the rules regarding social distancing. Some of these children attended throughout the holidays and maintained the highest standards throughout. As well as thanking Seaford's fantastic key workers, I would also like to thank their children for responding to an unusual situation in such a mature and responsible fashion.

The students who have not had access to on-site provision have also responded really positively to the challenge of remote learning. This was new territory for all of us and students have developed vital independent study skills during this period. The summer holidays provides students the opportunity to evaluate their learning and address any gaps; students attending summer sessions can work through these tasks on the days that they are in school. When students return to school the focus will be on moving forward with confidence across the full curriculum.

Although the vast majority of our students have managed the demands of lockdown extremely successfully I do appreciate that some individuals have found it very challenging and might feel nervous about returning to school. Although the government has made it clear that there is an expectation that all students will return, we are available to support families who have concerns. Support with attendance is available through ESBAS and an updated Behaviour Policy to support students is on our website and can be found here <https://www.seafordhead.org/policies>. The ESBAS School Attendance Helpline can be contacted during August every Tuesday and Thursday between 1.00pm-3.00pm on 01273 481967.

I would like to reassure all parents/carers that the steps we are taking will reduce the risk of transmission and we will maintain the highest standards of teaching and learning to accelerate students' academic progress. Students will be organised into distinct zones to ensure that they mix

Seaford Head Academy Trust

Mr R Ellis, Headteacher

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only with students in their year group. For each zone, there is a designated team of staff who will oversee the learning areas, play spaces, entrance and exit, and toilet facilities. On the first day of term for students (7 September 2020) Years 7 and 9 will be expected in at the usual time of 8.40am to give them time for an induction session in their zones. Years 8, 10 and 11 will be expected in at 11.30am.

From 8 September 2020 students in Years 7 and 11 will be expected in school from 8.40am whilst students in Years 8, 9 and 10 will be expected in by 9.05am. The school day will finish at the slightly earlier time of 2.55pm as we have taken 5 minutes from break time and 10 minutes off of lunch.

I would urge all students to either walk or cycle to school. They should avoid using public transport if possible; guidance on transport can be found here <https://www.gov.uk/guidance/coronavirus-covid-19-safer-travel-guidance-for-passengers>. We have audited students and very few of our pupils depend on public transport. If you have any concerns regarding your child's journey to/from school please contact our Attendance Officer, Mrs Maberley on DawnMaberley@seafordhead.org.

When students return to school it's important that they all have their own water bottle and hand sanitiser. They should also check they are fully equipped with pencils/pens as items of this type must not be shared. They must also bring their own reading book. At lesson change overs when it is now the teachers who will be moving to the students, they will have the opportunity to continue with their favourite read. I am also looking forward to seeing our students in perfect school uniform; we will be maintaining the highest standards in all areas of school performance.

As I write I can confirm that all students in receipt of FSM (free school meals) will have food provided at lunchtime. Lunches will be delivered to the students' zones. Updated availability of refreshments for the wider student body will be confirmed in a further communication towards the end of the summer break.

I will be writing to parents/carers again in the last week of the summer holiday. Your child's academic timetable for the new year will be sent at a similar time via InTouch along with a map of our sites showing the zones, so that students can familiarise themselves with where their lessons will be delivered. I can reassure parents/carers that students will have access to the full range of subjects but, at start the term, the focus will sometimes be on theory rather than practical activities. We will not be undertaking PE lessons in the first two weeks of term as this would involve movement between the zones and potential contamination of changing areas. We will keep this under review however and reintroduce practical PE onto the timetable as soon as it is safe to do so.

If you have any concerns or questions regarding the plans that we are making for September please don't hesitate to contact the school. I would like to take this opportunity to thank all members of our community for the kindness and support that you have given throughout this period. I hope you have a restful and enjoyable summer holiday and look forward to seeing you all safe and well to start the new term.

Yours sincerely



Mr R Ellis
Headteacher