

FAQs for parents September 2020

Organisation of the school

What are your expectations of the students?

Below you will read of many changes that we have made at school to keep the students safe as far as we possibly can. They will all work better with our students being mature and sensible and working with the teachers to enable everyone to return safely. The students have proved to be very good over the last few years with a positive attitude and approach to their school. As we return there will be a lot of adjustment needed to get back into routines and we will work with our student body to help them do this successfully.

How will the students be organised in September?

To allow for the options subjects to run it is recognised in the DfE guidance that the “bubble” principle of keeping students together has to be extended in secondary schools to include the whole year group. Students can mix with students within their bubbles in different lessons. Students will be taught in classes within their bubble;

Year 7 tutor groups of 30.

Year 8 in two halves, one bubble of 90 students and 1 bubble of 60 students.

Year 9, 10 and 11 as Year group bubble.

Each classroom will be arranged so children face the same direction and ensure there is space for teachers to retain their distance wherever possible.

An entrance and exit system for individual buildings combined with social distancing and a rigorous cleaning regime and good hygiene should reduce the chance of the virus spreading within the school.

Can my child access their locker?

As lockers are currently not allocated into Year group zones students will be unable to use their lockers for the time being. Students need to bring their books and equipment for the day to school in their school bag.

What will their timetable be?

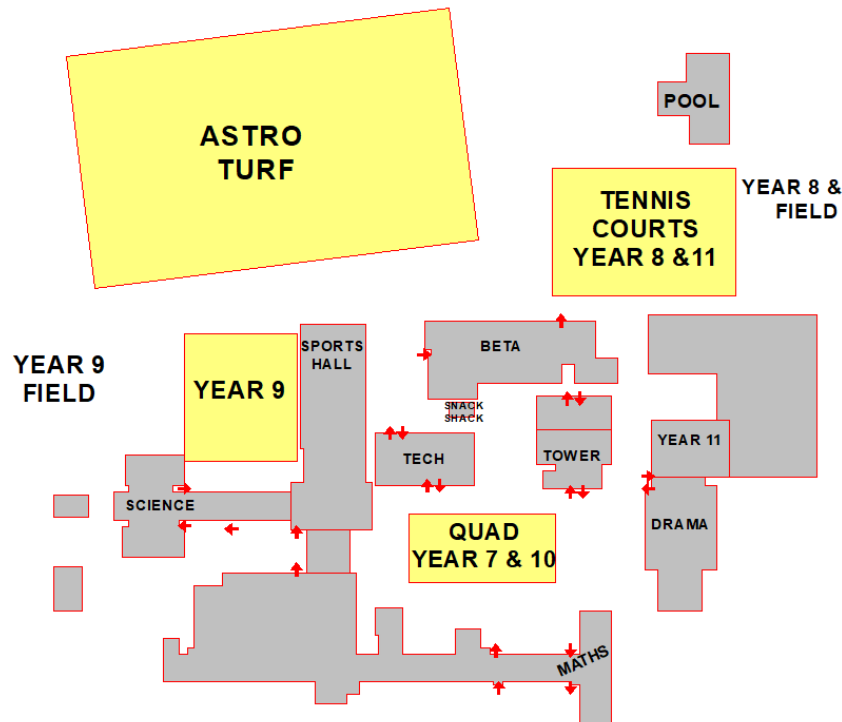
Students will have a normal timetable of 5 lessons, each 60 minutes long. Tutor time has moved to the start of the day with tutors available for “talk time” from 8.20am with the formal tutor time and registration at 8.40am.

Agreed model for Sept 2020

	8.20 – 9.00	9.00 – 10.00	10.00 – 10.30	10.30 – 11.00	11.00 – 11.30	11.30 – 12.30	12.30 – 1.00	1.00 – 1.30	1.30 – 2.00	2.00 – 3.00*
7	Tutor	P1	Break	P2	P3	Lunch	P4	P5		
8	Tutor	P1	Break	P2	P3	Lunch	P4	P5		
9	Tutor	P1	P2	Break	P3	P4	Lunch	P5		
10	Tutor	P1	P2	Break	P3	P4	Lunch	P5		
11	Tutor	P1	P2	Break	P3	P4	Lunch	P5		

What will happen at break and lunch time?

Break and lunchtime will be staggered and different years will be allocated separate parts of the school to occupy with the cyber café zoned into Year group areas. In addition we have our new outdoor snack shack available for grab and go food. Year 11 have been allocated their own common room and study zone in what was the music department. This is currently a privilege and if this area is abused it will be removed and allocated to Year 10. If students need to use the toilet they will be allowed to at any point during the day within reason to avoid crowded periods during break and lunchtimes.



How will the students arrive – will there be a staggered start to the day?

Given the multiple transport usage that we have here we are unable to fully stagger the start or end of the day. We have three separate entrances to the school, two on Watchetts Drive and one from the Frimley Road. Parents will be able to drive onto the school site and quickly drop their children but we ask that you do not come into reception with your child.

The cyber café will be available at the start of the day from 7.45 to 8.20 for the few students who tend to arrive early sitting at 2m spaced tables individually. From 8.20am students must move to their tutor rooms to limit mixing between “bubbles”.

What happens at the end of the day?

Unlike the start of the day students departing would normally mean the release of over 700 students onto Watchetts drive or the Frimley road in addition to school buses and taxis. To support with social distancing we are therefore intending to have some limited stagger at the end of the day in addition to changes to how the carpark is used.

Year 7 end of the day is at 2.55pm

Year 8 and 9 is at 3.05pm

Year 10 and 11 at 3.15pm.

The main school gates will be **closed between 2.45 and 3.30pm** to allow us to limit the amount of traffic in the main carpark. This will give students more space and the option of leaving via any of the three main exits onto Watchetts Drive and the back entrance onto the

Frimley road. Students who need to wait for school buses will be able to social distance in the carpark rather than filling the pavement directly outside school. Parents of students with EHCP's or who have a registered physical disability and need to be picked up within the school grounds will be issued with a car parking pass over the summer holiday.

Siblings will be able to wait safely on site for each other before departing.

What is the best way for my child to travel to and from school?

We are encouraging students to cycle or walk to school. If your child would normally catch the bus, we will publish further guidance on this once we have heard from Surrey CC about the transport arrangements. Currently whilst travelling on transport students will be expected to wear a face mask. Students should remove this and place in a plastic bag on reaching the school gates (if it is a washable mask) or place in a plastic bag and dispose of in the bins provided at the entrance gates. Please remember to supply plastic bags.

We would also encourage students to be dropped off and picked up further away from school to ease congestion. Please be mindful of our neighbours and we are speaking to the Local Authority about parking arrangements on Watchetts Drive.

At the end of the day students will be expected to leave the site and return home promptly. We will not be offering after school clubs currently but hope to have some opportunities when the new school routines are established.

What of the future – if there is another lock-down or schools are allowed to open more widely?

We are already planning how we can return to remote learning should the need arise and the school is directed to shut again for a period – although obviously we really hope this won't be needed. We are also preparing for the next phase of lifting of constraints when the school will return to normal and students will be back moving around the building – what we all want to see come about!

Health and Hygiene

How will we know that all those in school are healthy and do not have the virus?

If any member of your household has the virus you must follow government guidelines and ***not send your child to school for 14 days***. Details can be found on the gov.uk website. This will be the same for teaching and support staff who will be in school and, combined with careful hygiene measures and social distancing, this should reduce the chance of the virus spreading within the school. We are asking that all students, parents and staff engage with track and trace. If your child is unwell, even if you do not believe it is Coronavirus, we would request that you call 111 and get advice about if your child or the family needs to be tested. Current advice is that anyone with a positive test result must be off for 7 days and any members of their household must self-isolate for 14 days.

How will you keep the school clean and hygienic?

The school will be thoroughly cleaned throughout the day to ensure that each group arriving have a clean place to study, especially door handles and other touch points around the school. All classroom desks will be cleaned after every lesson. Each student will sit in a seating plan and will need to use their own materials (books / pens / rulers / calculator etc.) to remove the chance of the virus spreading. Children will wash their hands and/or use sanitiser when arriving and returning from outside after break or lunch time. We have added in outdoor hand washing areas in 4 key locations around the school site to increase facilities.

What happens if a child or teacher has symptoms in school and tests positive?

If a member of the school, child or adult, has symptoms and tests positive we may have to send the members of the year group that they were in contact with home to self-isolate. With teachers working across year groups this is why we must ensure social distancing, and with students we will ensure they have contact with fewer students than normal to reduce the chance of this happening. This is why it is incredibly important that you do not send your child into school if you think they might have any symptoms that could be the virus. If in doubt, keep them at home and get a test.

What if my child becomes ill during the day?

We will have medical staff who are able to respond to their immediate needs, and they will then need to be collected by parents and taken home straight away. All children can now be tested for Covid-19 and if they have symptoms they should do take the test, and the school be informed immediately if the test is positive.

Will you support the children's mental wellbeing?

We will hold a tutor time each morning and the Head of Year and pastoral team will be available and give support for the students. We have been keeping in touch over the period of the lockdown and will continue to offer the best possible pastoral care for our students. We will focus on supporting children's mental wellbeing particularly during the first half term.

Will children be expected to wear PPE or face masks? Will teachers and other staff?

Children will not be able to wear PPE and teaching staff likewise are not expected to wear it and the government are directing that we do not allow this. An example of an exception is when a child is receiving medical aid in which case our staff will be appropriately dressed in PPE. Children will need to wear a face covering on public transport and then remove it carefully when they arrive in school. We are still seeking advice about how teaching assistants can interact with individuals but maintain social distancing.

Lesson content and curriculum**What will lessons be like?**

We will return to our broad and balanced curriculum in September. PE will be taught mainly outdoors and children will be able to wear their PE kit for the whole day when they have PE or Dance on their timetable. In subjects requiring specialist equipment this will be sanitized by a technician between classes.

My child has not engaged with much learning during school closure – will this cause a problem?

Each child will have addressed the challenge of remote learning differently. We will focus our efforts on ensuring that they can all consolidate what they have learnt before closure and build on that to ensure they are moving forward in their learning from wherever they currently are. Teachers will use the first few weeks to check how well students have learnt over the closure and adapt future lessons accordingly.

My child has kept up with all the learning activities – will they be waiting for others to catch up?

Each teacher will personalise the learning as much as possible – which is what we normally do in the school year. Obviously, it will be rather harder after this closure, but we remain optimistic that we can support each student to move forward in their learning, gain depth of understanding and practice applying their skills and knowledge.

Will all the teachers be in school?

We anticipate most of the teachers will be able to return in September but are aware that some of them may be shielding and so unable to attend. If this is the case, we will arrange for other teachers to cover their teaching commitments.

What if I don't want to send my child into school – legally do I have to?

You have to send your child into school if they are able to attend. The only circumstances where absence will be allowed is where there are medical reasons that fit with the government guidance and there is evidence to support it. Otherwise you will be expected to send your child to school and could be fined if you choose not to.

If a child does have to shield and remain at home, there will still be some on-line learning resources available. These will be slightly reduced as teachers will be back teaching classes, but we aim for them to be of high quality and enable children at home to still make progress.

My child has SEND and usually receives additional support whilst in school. Will this support be in place when students return?

We will give this our best endeavours but we can't guarantee this will be available in the way it was last year; it reduces the social distancing possible, and our team will be stretched across the year groups. We hope to work closely with students to enable their support to be at the highest standard possible.

What will be the behaviour and uniform expectations?

We expect every student to attend in school uniform as they normally would. If your child has PE during a day then they can wear their kit into school as changing facilities will be restricted. We have purchased a 'fogger' to sanitise changing rooms, so your child will be able to change into their uniform following PE.

Please note – your child will not need to attend in PE kit for the first 2 days (Thursday 3rd/Friday 4th September) and will receive their timetable in advance of Monday 7th September.

We will uphold our normal behaviour expectations and including around social distancing. We are confident that students will uphold our expectations over this but if a student cannot do so then they will be given a warning, and if they continue to break it they will face our normal sanctions including that you may be asked to collect them from school. If you have any further questions not covered here, please let us know.