August 25th Updates

Uniform

Can students wear leggings to school on PE days or does it have to be joggers?
Students are asked to wear joggers or tracksuit bottoms over your PE kit on days where you have PE. Ideally these need to be black, blue or grey. If you wish to wear leggings under your PE shorts, this will be allowed but leggings on their own for school or for PE are not appropriate school wear.

What will happen if my child does not bring my PE shorts and just has joggers or leggings?
Your child will be allowed to do PE but will receive a sanction for having incorrect uniform.

What top should my child wear over my PE Kit on PE days?
Your child can either wear a school jumper (yr7 & 8) or alternatively a sweatshirt or hooded top

Keeping Warm

Classrooms will be ventilated by having windows and doors open. Can my child wear an extra layer to keep warm?
Yes – especially once the weather is colder, even though we will have the heating on we recommend students wear or bring an extra layer. This might be a t-shirt, vest or leggings under their uniform or an extra jumper / sweatshirt / hooded top. Coats may also be work if needed as our priority is to keep rooms ventilated in order to reduce the risk of virus transmission and keep everyone safe.

August 17th

Start of Term
Has the Year 7 start date been changed and how will you make sure everyone knows?
We have changed the date for students to return to school to give us time to prepare the site and classrooms. Year 7 start back on Monday September 7th. We will keep sending out details via ParentMail as well as on our website and social media platforms.

When will Year 7 meet their Form Tutor, their teaches and the other children in their bubble
Year 7 will meet their form tutors on the first day for an Introduction to Colmers session. Each year group forms one bubble. Students in Year 7 will be taught in two different teaching groups; one group for Maths, English Science and a different group for all of their other subjects. They will have one lesson a week with their Form Tutor.

Will children be told where to go on the first day?
Yes, all students will get an email telling them the specific arrangements on the first day and there will be staff outside school and on all of the entrances and external areas to help students find their way on the first day. There will be a special meet and greet welcome for Year 7 on their first day and they will be given a tour of the school.

On their first day back, all students will have a lesson with their Form Tutor to help them learn about the changes in school and settle back in. They will then start their new timetables.
**Attendance and the School Day**

Will children be going to school from Monday to Friday?
Yes, all children will be in school every day, from Monday to Friday.

Why is the school day shorter this year? Are students getting less learning time?
Although the school day is shorter, students are still getting exactly the same amount of lesson time, which is 25 hours a week. We have reduced the school day because we cannot manage a daily time in Form Groups every morning as this would involve too much pupil movement. So the school day is shorter because of the change to tutor time.

**Before and After School**

My child is going to be bringing their younger sibling in the mornings, Will they be able to come in using the same entrance?
We have 3 different entrances and students will have to enter and exit via their own entrance zone even if they have to drop off or collect a sibling. Siblings will need to agree between them what arrangements they will stick to at the end of the day so they can meet up and go home together safely.

My child walks to and from school with their friend in a different year group. Can she still do this?
Government Guidance asks us to help students think carefully about social distancing on their way to and from school. There is nothing to stop students travelling together but they should always follow social distancing measures, whether they are walking or travelling on public transport.

**Lesson Arrangements**

The number of lessons in a day has changed from 5 to 3. Will the 1hr 40 minute lessons be split up between subjects or will students study one subject for the whole of the 1hr 40 minutes?
Each lesson is 1hr 40 minutes, or 100 minutes, and will be for one subject only. The timetable covers all subjects over a period of 2 weeks.

How will you make sure students don’t switch off in 100-minute lessons?
Teachers are working hard to plan longer lessons: some schools already have 100 minute lessons and at one time so did Colmers! We think longer lessons could be a real positive especially for practical subjects and we are thinking carefully about how we support students who may not adapt so easily to longer lessons. Staff will be considering how to keep lessons varied so that students engage and get as much as possible out of the longer learning slots.

**Brunch Break**

What provision is there for pupils who take their own lunch?
Students who bring their own lunch will be able to eat either in a designated covered area or the canteen during their brunch break.

Will the children be allowed outside for their brunch break after they have finished eating?
Yes, there will be a designated external area for each year group during the Brunch Break where they can go after they finish in the canteen or where they can eat if they prefer to eat outside.
How will you make sure that not all children arrive at the same time at the canteen for their brunch break? Will there be different times for different years?
There will be 3 different brunch break time slots. 2 year groups will be on Bruch at one time and will be kept separate. The food available will be the same for all year groups but the menu will not be as varied as usual so that we can have the different serving points.

Why are children not allowed to refill their water bottles during the day?
In order to reduce student moving and mixing between year groups, we are taking water fountains out of use. This is a social distancing safety measure and we ask that all students bring a bottle of water with them to school every day.

Uniform
If pupils are to wear PE kit to school on days when they have PE will they be able to wear tracksuit trousers to school?
Yes, if students have PE they need to wear their PE Kit on that day. They will be able to wear a pair of black, blue or grey tracksuit trousers or jogging bottoms to school. Students in Years 7 & 8 will be able to wear their school jumper, students in Years 9, 10 and 11 will be able to wear a warm top, preferably black, blue or grey.

Social Distancing and Hygiene
What distancing will there be in the classroom?
Students will sit at their normal desks. The Government Guidance is that we have all students back in school. We have reduced the number of groups students are taught in and students will not be in contact with students outside of their year group bubble. We have also reduced movement between lessons and time out of classrooms to reduce the risk of virus transmission.

What distancing will there be in the canteen?
The canteen will be used differently before school and at dinner time. At all times, year groups will be kept separate in the canteen and areas will be cleaned between usage if they are used by different year groups.

Will hot water be available in the toilets for hand washing and will there be hand sanitiser?
In each of the student toilet zones there will be hot water, soap and sanitiser. In addition, we have hand wash stations in the playground (cold water only) and sanitiser stations dotted all around school and in classrooms. We also encourage students to carry their own personal bottle of hand sanitiser if they wish to do so.