



## Colmers School September 2020: Back to School Safely Arrangements

### Frequently Asked Questions

#### September 2<sup>nd</sup> Updates

##### Face Coverings

###### **What is the school policy on face coverings for the start of term? (Amended from July 14<sup>th</sup>)**

Although DFE Guidance does not require face coverings in school at this time, we have taken the decision to recommend that staff and students wear a face covering when in communal areas and unable to maintain social distancing or reduced contact with other students.

The school will provide 2 re-usable, washable face coverings to each student for this purpose or they can wear their own.

Students are asked not to wear a mask in classrooms due to the communication barriers created, however there may be some students who, for personal reasons, including extreme anxiety, wish to wear a mask at all times and will be allowed to do so. This is subject to consent from the Headteacher and full co-operation with all elements of mask hygiene and school behaviour rules. Parents/carers of a child who wishes to wear a face mask in lessons should submit the request to [eleaman@colmers.school](mailto:eleaman@colmers.school).

##### Attendance

###### **Are all students expected to return to school, even if they are clinically vulnerable or live with someone clinically vulnerable?**

Yes, all students are expected to return to school. The DFE has published this guidance for parents and carers which explains the expectations.

###### **I am really worried about sending my child back to school and don't think it is safe. What should I do?**

If you do not think it is safe to send your child to school and are intending to keep them at home, please contact Main Reception or your child's Head of Year. We will talk through with you how we can help and support. We appreciate this is a big worry for some parents and carers and will do our very best to work with you to find a solution.

##### Water Bottles

###### **Can my child refill their water bottle in school? (Amended from July 14<sup>th</sup>)**

All students are asked to bring a bottle of water to school to drink during the day. Previously, we indicated we would not be able to allow students to refill their water bottles. We have reviewed this in light of guidance and are making provision for students to re-fill bottles in their Hubs, however as far as possible we request students avoid this unless absolutely necessary.

## August 25<sup>th</sup> 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 worn if needed as our priority is to keep rooms ventilated in order to reduce the risk of virus transmission and keep everyone safe.

## August 17<sup>th</sup>

### 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 7<sup>th</sup>. 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 teachers 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 40minutes?**

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.—Amended Sept 2nd~~

### **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 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.

**July 14<sup>th</sup>**

### **Are there any changes to term dates? YE**

**Monday September 7<sup>th</sup> : Years 7, 11 and 12**

**Tuesday September 8<sup>th</sup> : Years 8, 9 and 10**

I am very conscious of just how long it is since we have had everyone in school. I hope you will understand that we need the extra two days at the start of term to make the big changes on-site and prepare fully for our new operating model.

### **Are there any changes to the start of the school day? YES**

The school canteen will be open from 8.00 – 8.30 a.m. for any student wishing to get breakfast or have a quiet place to sit before the school gates open at 8.30.

School gates will open at 8.30 a.m. Year groups will have distinct entrances:

Years 8, 12 and 13 North Zone entrance will be via the North Gate.

Years 9 and 10 East Zone entrance will be via the Belton Grove entrance  
Years 7 and 11 West Zone entrance will be from the Bristol Road Entrance (The Fordrough)

Start of Day: Students should arrive in school by 8.45 a.m. and must be in their Period 1 lesson by 8.55 a.m.

**Are there any changes to the end of the school day? YES**

The school day will finish earlier than previously at 2.45 p.m.

**Will students have to wear full school uniform? YES**

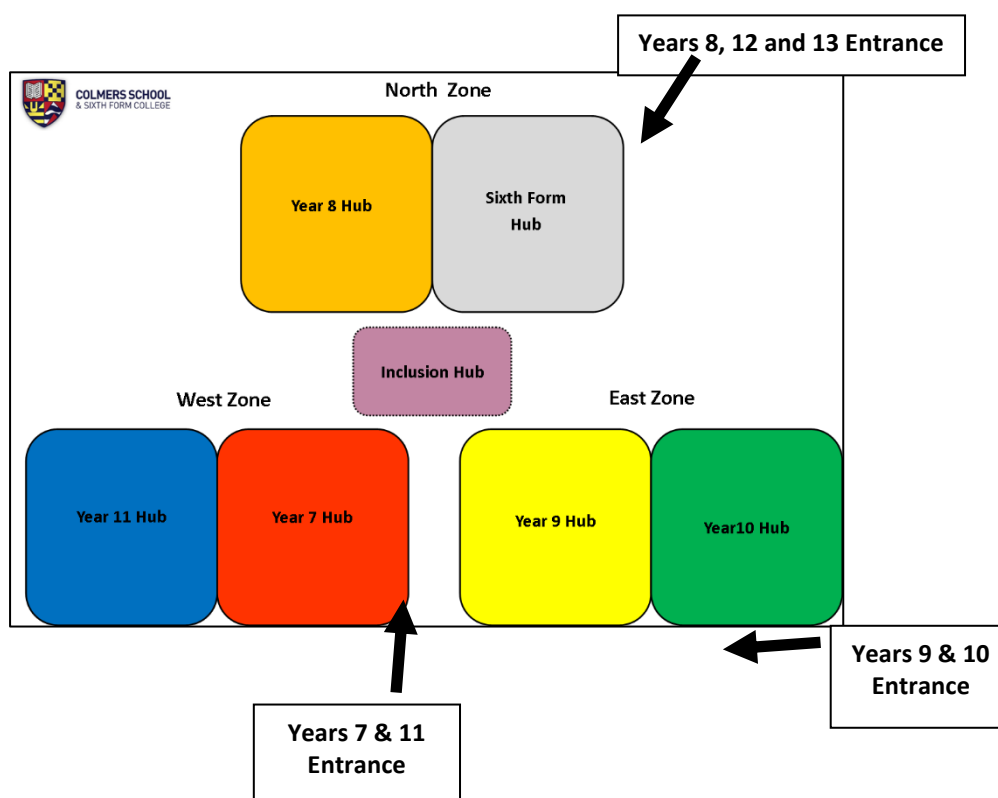
Students need to be in full school uniform. Once timetables have been issued, students will know the days they have PE and will be asked to wear their PE Kit on those days.

If you need assistance with school uniform, please contact School Reception who will be able to advise.

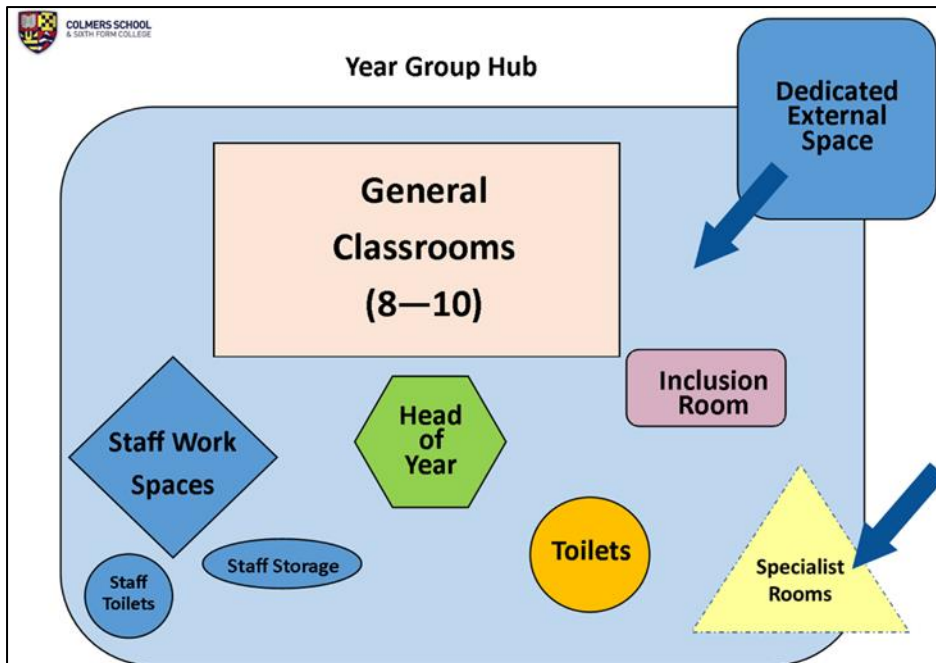
**Is the way the school operates changing in September? YES**

From September, our school will be re-organised into **Year Group Hubs**.

The school site will be split into 3 Zones – East, West and North. Each Zone will be home to two year group hubs.



Each Year Hub will have its own entrance, its own classrooms and its own student toilets. Students will not be able to mix with students outside of their Year Hub during the school day. Staff will move between Hubs.



### Is the school still offering all of the curriculum subjects? YES

We are maintaining a broad and balanced curriculum in all year groups so your child will continue to study all of their subjects. This is really important to us at Colmers.

However, because students need to remain in their Hubs, there will be fewer practical lessons in specialist classrooms. We know this is only temporary so our staff are working hard to make sure that students still benefit from a range of interesting, inspiring and enjoyable learning experiences.

Students will be taught in fewer teaching groups so that they move around less – this will keep us all safer.

### Will my child still have their Form Tutor and Head of Year? YES

Your child's Form Tutor remains your first point of contact. The time the form group spends with their Form Tutor will not be at the start of every day: instead, each form group will have one lesson a week with their Form Tutor, on a Wednesday afternoon. This will be where they study Learning for Life and this year, we will also have an extra focus on student well-being.

Your child's Head of Year will be based in their Year Hub and will continue to support the whole year group and Tutor Team.

### Is the shape of the school day changing? YES

Instead of having 5 lessons every day, students will have 3 lessons a day that last 100 minutes each. This allows us to reduce student movement which increases safety in school.

### Will students still have a lunch break? YES

During Period 2, students will have a **30-minute Brunch** in which they will be able to have a meal from our school catering provider. This is the only time during the school day that students will spend out of lessons.

During period 1 and period 3, students will have a ten-minute break in the lesson in which they may have a snack and take time out from work. They will be supervised by the teacher at all times.

**Can students bring a snack and drink into school? YES**

We really encourage you to send your child in with a snack and a bottle of water for when they have their ten minute lesson breaks in periods 1 and 3. This is especially important because lessons will be longer and hungry teenagers don't concentrate well! Please note students will not be able to fill water bottles in school.

**Can students still top up their food accounts in school? NO**

Students purchasing food in school will need money to be put on their account via ParentPay; they will no longer be able to put cash onto their school accounts from September. If this is likely to cause an issue, please contact School Reception for assistance.

**Do students still need to bring in their equipment? YES**

Students are expected to bring their own basic equipment including a blue or black pen, a red pen, a green pen, pencil, ruler and calculator.

Each student will be provided with a plastic wallet containing a mini-whiteboard and spare equipment for use in all of their lessons.

Students must have a school bag with sufficient capacity to hold their equipment, planner, a drink or snack.

~~**Will students wear face coverings in school? NO**~~

~~Current guidance for schools remains that students and staff are not required to wear face coverings in school. Students travelling by public transport must wear a mask and must have a secure plastic bag or container for storage on arrival into school, before then washing or sanitising their hands. Amended September 2<sup>nd</sup>~~

**Will the school car park be available in September? NO**

Our car park will not be available for drop off or collection of students. Please remember it is not safe to drop off or pick up your child on the Bristol Road or Belton Grove. To keep our students safe, we need those travelling by car to drop off and pick up either at Morrisons or at one of the side roads other than Belton Grove.