



Alsager School

An Achieving School - A Caring Community

**A PARENT/CARER GUIDE TO SEPTEMBER 2020
OPENING**

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How is Alsager School mitigating the risk of spreading Covid 19?

We are following up to date Government advice; we will update our risk assessments on a regular basis and communicate with all stake holders the changes.

How are you keeping year groups apart?

The Government guidelines requests that pupils are divided into 'bubbles'. In secondary schools, a bubble is classed as a year group. At Alsager School, all lessons are taught in year group classes. We will have specific zones around our school campus for each year group. Pupils will go to their zones at the start of the school day and for all breaks. Entry and exit to any building will be staggered. The zones are listed further in this document. We will do all we can to prevent 'bubbles' mixing.

How are you implementing hand hygiene?

Good hand hygiene is critical to ensure we minimise the risk within our school community. There will be hand sanitiser points available throughout the school and in every classroom as well as tissues. Students will be encouraged to wash their hands in any classroom with a sink (e.g. Art, Science) or sanitise their hands regularly throughout the day. Students are requested (as essential items) to bring in their own hand sanitiser and tissues.

Will my child have to wear a face mask in school?

The current Government guidance states that students and teachers do not need to wear a face mask in school. If this changes we will let you know.

My child has enjoyed a broad curriculum since starting Alsager School and I am concerned that there will be a reduced number of subjects on offer. Will that happen?

We believe all students should have access to a broad and balanced curriculum and all pupils will start in September with a 'normal' timetable. It is not our intention to restrict access to certain subjects.

What changes are there to school transport?

Our parents are currently completing a transport questionnaire. We anticipate that school buses will run as normal. However, as buses are enclosed spaces with mixed year groups, we will require students to wear face masks/coverings on school transport. Students should only sit next to someone from their own year group. Students should attempt to sit in year groups with Year 7s at the front of the bus and the oldest students at the back. Upon arrival, students should leave the bus in an orderly manner to minimise physical contact with each other.

Will my child have to wear their school uniform and a blazer?

Yes. We make no apology for setting high standards and expectations and our uniform forms part of that. All students should return in September wearing full school uniform. The Government guidelines make it clear that schools should return to normal (as much as possible). Many students do not come to school with a coat, preferring to rely on their blazer as a replacement. Government guidelines also make it clear that the school uniform does not need to be washed any more frequently than previously.

Will exams in summer 2021 take into account lost learning?

There is currently a consultation in place to review exam specifications for students due to take exams in summer 2021. At the moment it looks as though there will be minimal change for the majority of subjects. Once the consultation is closed and the exam boards have finalised their decision we will share the information with students and parents. It is important that we do not panic our students and remember that every student across the country is affected in the same way.

What do I do if my child is feeling unwell on a school day?

*If your child is exhibiting Covid 19 related symptoms you **MUST NOT** send your child to school and contact our absence line. You must follow the Public Health England guidance and have your child tested. We have a link on our website to help you. If your child has non Covid 19 related symptoms, you must contact our absence line. Attendance at school is key to your child making good progress. If you feel that your child may be anxious rather than ill, please contact us so that we can put in additional support for your child.*

What happens if my child falls ill at school?

If your child falls ill during the school day they will be assessed for symptoms of coronavirus by a first aider. If coronavirus is suspected your child will be asked to wait in a segregated first aid room until they can be collected from school. The room will be sterilised after use.

Any student or member of staff with suspected coronavirus will be required to take a coronavirus test. (<https://www.nhs.uk/conditions/coronavirus-covid-19/testing-and-tracing/get-an-antigen-test-to-check-if-you-have-coronavirus/>)

*If your child shows any symptoms of coronavirus (<https://www.nhs.uk/conditions/coronavirus-covid-19/>) they **must be kept off school and tested for coronavirus**. Please ensure you follow the normal absence procedures and contact the absence line.*

*Students will be expected to isolate for the required number of days if they are contacted by the Government's track and trace scheme, or you are aware they have been in direct contact with someone with a **confirmed** case of coronavirus.*

Please do not speculate or comment about an individual's illness or suspected illness on social media.

Is attendance compulsory in September?

On 2nd July, the government announced that schools are to open fully in September to all children and all children must attend school. This means that the legal duty on you as a parent/carer to send your child to school regularly will apply. Guidance for those currently shielding can be found in Section 2 of the following:

<https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/actions-for-schools-during-the-coronavirus-outbreak/guidance-for-full-opening-schools>

Will my child do PE?

Our intention is for all pupils to take part in PE lessons. We are currently reviewing our offer to ensure the safety of all pupils and staff. Any changes to our PE offer will be communicated at a later date.

Will my child do science experiments?

It is likely that your child will have to observe the teacher conducting the experiment rather than doing it themselves, in the first instance. However, our science team are investigating ways which may make it possible for students to conduct experiments.

We are struggling to buy uniform. Is there any support?

Volunteers at Alsager Community Support centre run a pre-owned school uniform scheme, which is open to everybody and covers all Alsager Schools. They stock the whole range of school wear, including PE kit, football boots, shoes, etc. As most of their volunteers are still working from home, they are operating on an order only basis this year. An order form can be found on our website. Please send it by email to: uniform@alsagercommunitysupport.org.uk. Alternatively, hand written lists can be posted in their external letter box at their centre on Fairview/Civic car park. In exceptional cases we may be able to offer some financial support.

I have struggled to get my child into a routine during lockdown. I am worried that this will continue in September. What will the school do to help?

We suggest talking to your child about the importance of having a routine. Children work best when they have consistency and routine in their lives. We will expect all students to be punctual at all times and to adhere to our expectations and policies. We will use our rewards and sanctions to help us with that. You may find it useful to put something similar in place at home. Rewards and sanctions only work if everyone sticks to them. Children are quick to find loopholes. We rely on the support of our parents and carers to maintain our high standards.

How will the school be kept clean?

Prior to lockdown we increased the number of cleaners on site and had key areas regularly cleaned throughout the day. We will increase this further for September. Handwashing is essential in reducing risk. All classrooms have hand sanitiser and students will wash hands on entry and exit to every classroom. Your child may wish to bring their own sanitiser.

What do I do if I want to speak to a member of staff?

If you want to speak to a member of staff please contact reception and they will take your details. We are reducing the number of visitors on site and anyone wanting to come into school will have to make an appointment in advance.

My child isn't able to walk or cycle to school. Can I drop my child off in the carpark?

If your child is unable to walk or cycle and comes to school in car, please drop your child off in a road slightly away from the school to avoid congestion in the carpark. This has worked well over the past few months

What food will be available?

Food will only be available at lunchtime. We know that many of our students do not have breakfast before coming to school, preferring to have an extra few minutes in bed! Please encourage your child to have breakfast. We notice a significant difference in a child's performance when they have eaten.

We have made slight changes to our lunchtime provision. In order to facilitate such large numbers in a limited time frame, there will be a reduced food offer. When we have more information regarding the menu, we will let parents know. Years 10, 11, 12 and 13 will still be allowed off site at lunchtime to go to the village. In order to maintain social distancing, year 10 and year 11 will have separate lunch times. The school day is long and children have probably been used to regular snacks during lockdown so we recommend providing your child with a snack.

Will homework club still run?

We will continue to provide space after school for pupils to do homework. Details will be shared with all pupils and posted on our website.

Can my child still go to the LRC?

The LRC will remain open. We have a rota for each year group. Details about the LRC can be accessed on our website.

Who can my child talk to if they are worried?

We have an outstanding pastoral support team in school. Our Heads of College are available throughout the day and our Learning Support Team offer support to all students who are feeling worried. All of our students will see their form tutor on a daily basis, but some students may prefer to talk to one of their subject teachers.

Will the school day be the same as before?

In order to ensure that we reduce the risk of year groups mixing with each other, we will have staggered entry and exit to all buildings which will affect the start and end of the day. In addition to that change, we have incorporated additional breaks. This will enable all pupils to access fresh air and aid well-being. All year groups have been assigned a 'zone' on our school campus where they should meet at the start of the day and during every break.

Staggered entry onto the school grounds, where possible. Once on the school site, students should go to their designated zone.

1. Y7: 8:20am
2. Y8 8:25am
3. Y9 8:30am
4. Y10 8:35am
5. Y11 8:35am
6. Y12/13 on site by 8:35am

Year Group Zones:

Outside areas around the school campus will be specific per year group

1. Year 7: Tennis Courts
2. Year 8: Astro turf – labelled for year 8
3. Year 9: Astro turf – labelled for year 9
4. Year 10: outside HHH
5. Year 11: ADT area (outside Mrs Howard’s room)
6. Year 12/13 – outside sixth form area.

School Day

Period 1	8:40-9:40am
Break	9:40-9:50am
Period 2	9:50-10:50am
Break	10:50-11:05am
Period 3	11:05-12:05pm
Lunch/Form Time	12:05-1:05pm
Period 4	1:05-2:00pm
Break	2:00-2:10pm
Period 5	2:10-3:10pm (staggered exit- Year 7 first, year 11 last)

Which entrance should my child use to get to school?

Our students may use the entrance that is most convenient for them. We are having a staggered entry and exit onto the school campus.

I have more than one child in school. Can they walk to school together?

Siblings can walk to school together. Some of the best ‘sibling’ conversations take place to and from school.

What are the arrangements for the first day?

Year 7 and Y12 should be on the site for 8:35am. Year 7 should assemble outside Hollinshead Hall and Year 12 should go straight to the sixth form area.

*Years 8, 9, 10, 11 and 13 should be on the site **no earlier than 10:55am** and they should go to their year group zone. A member of staff will be on the school gates to remind them.*

Can students collect their exam results from school?

Students in Y11 and Y13 can collect their exam results from school. Year 10 will receive theirs in September. Details have been posted to all students giving specific times when they can come onto site. Full details can also be found on our website.

How were the GCSE, BTEC, and A level results generated?

Grades have been based on a range of evidence including mock exams, non-exam assessment, homework assignments and any other record of student performance over the course of study. Our teachers worked as a team (faculty, SLT link, data manager) to produce the 'most likely' result using the evidence that they had. Headteachers nationally were asked to be judicious and to exercise 'moral leadership' in allocation of grades and not take the opportunity to over-inflate outcomes. To avoid schools over inflating their results, national guidance made it clear that the school's previous data would be taken into consideration.

I want to reassure you that staff at Alsager School were rigorous in their approach; worked as a team to avoid any potential bias or discrimination and behaved professionally and with integrity.

*Schools submitted the centre assessed grades to the exam board and the final outcome for each student, **a calculated grade**, has been determined by the exam board.*

Can my child appeal against their calculated grade?

No. When consulting on this summer's arrangements, OfQual considered carefully opportunities for a student to challenge their centre assessment grades and position in their centre's rank order. On balance, they decided it would not be in the interests of students or the fairness of the arrangements overall. Any appeal would have to be undertaken by someone better placed than the student's teachers to judge their likely grade, if exams had taken place. In addition, because of the role of the rank order in grading this year, such an appeal would have implications for other students in the cohort: if one student successfully appealed against their position in the rank order, it would have negative implications for other students who would, in turn, need to be given an opportunity to appeal.

If students or others have concerns about bias, discrimination or any other factor that suggests that a centre did not behave with care or integrity when determining the centre assessment grade and/or rank order information they should normally raise these concerns with their centre, in the first instance.

If a student wishes to access their centre assessed grade they should contact the school in writing within 40 days of receiving their calculated grade. They should use the email address below: subjectaccessrequest@alsagerschool.org. Our staff will not disclose the centre assessed grade verbally or in an email. The calculated grade is the grade that will appear on exam certificates.

Any student unable to receive a calculated result, and others who would like to improve their grades, will have an opportunity to take the full suite of GCSE and A level exams in the autumn.

END OF PARENTS/CARER GUIDE
