



Alsager School

An Achieving School - A Caring Community

A STUDENTS' GUIDE TO SEPTEMBER 2020 OPENING

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Head of School
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We are all really excited about returning to school in September. It will be lovely to see familiar faces and welcome our new year 7 and sixth formers joining us for the first time. We pride ourselves on being a caring community; showing respect and kindness to everyone. We will all need to work hard in September to ensure that we maintain our high standards. We have provided key information below to questions you may have about returning to school in September. Things will be slightly different and we all have a part to play to ensure that we are all safe in school. We will be expecting you to be sensible on your return so that we can all enjoy being back at Alsager School.

Will it be safe for me to come back to school?

We are following up to date Government advice and putting in measures to help keep us all safe. We cannot eliminate risk but if we are all sensible and follow instructions we will help to reduce any risk. We have had a lot of children return to school during the summer term and they have all been kept safe.

Will year groups be kept 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 of your lessons are taught in year group classes. We will have specific zones around our school campus for each year group. You will go to your zone 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. We will rely on you all to be sensible during this time.

Will I have to wash my hands more regularly?

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. You will be encouraged to wash their hands in any classroom with a sink (e.g. Art, Science) or sanitise your hands regularly throughout the day. It would be a good idea to bring your own hand sanitiser and some tissues.

Will I 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.

Can I still take all my subjects? I really enjoy practical work.

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.

Will I have to wear my school uniform and a blazer?

Yes. We set high standards at Alsager School and those of you currently in Y7-10 will know that we expect all students to wear school uniform and follow our uniform policy. We will have standards cards and we will check uniform throughout the day. Most of you have been away from school for 5 months. It would make sense to follow our uniform policy so that you can be

in every lesson. We will continue to implement sanctions if students do not stick to the uniform policy. You are free to make choices; you are not free to choose the consequences.

I am worried that I have missed a lot of learning.

There has been a lot of talk on television and in newspapers about 'lost learning'. You must not worry about this. When you return to school in September, you will be in safe hands. Our teachers will continue to deliver exciting and challenging lessons and we will make sure that we cover important bits that you may not have understood. The important thing is that you commit to your learning, you come to school every day and complete all work fully.

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. If you are worried about coming back to school I would suggest contacting your form tutor or Head of College so that they can offer you support.

Will I 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 I do science experiments?

Our science team are investigating ways which may make it possible for you to conduct experiments. We know how much you enjoy conducting experiments, but we need to make sure that it is safe to do so.

I have enjoyed getting up a bit later during lockdown and am scared that I will be in trouble if I come to school late.

We will expect all students to arrive at school on time. We will continue to use our detention system for students who are late. We advise you to use the six weeks' holiday to start to get back into a routine. Remember too, that having a breakfast before coming to school will help with your concentration. You will only be able to buy food at lunchtime in school.

What food will be available?

Food will only be available at lunchtime. We know that many of you do not have breakfast before coming to school, preferring to have an extra few minutes in bed! A good breakfast is the most important meal of the day. It provides your body with fuel. 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 you know. We are keeping our fingers crossed that Matt will be able to bake chocolate crunch. 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 you have probably been used to regular snacks during lockdown so we recommend bringing a snack.

Will homework club still run?

We will continue to provide space after school for you to do homework. Details will be shared with you and posted on our website. Doing homework in school is a good habit to get into.

Can I 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 I talk to if I am worried?

There are lots of people you can talk to in school if you are worried. The Heads of College are easy to find and they are great at providing reassurance. Our learning support team are available throughout the day but you can also talk to your form tutor or a teacher you feel comfortable talking to.

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. The breaks will give you the chance to have fresh air, some time to chill between lessons and catch up with friends who are in your year group.

When will I be able to use the toilet?

We have added two extra breaks to your school day. You will have a break after each lesson. You will be able to go to the toilet during breaks.

When should I arrive at school?

We want to discourage year groups mixing on the way to and from school as much as possible so we are suggesting the times below for you to arrive at school. If you cannot come at that time, that is fine. You need to make sure that you arrive by 8:35 and go straight to your year group 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.**

What are the new timings to the school day?

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	2:10-3:10 pm(staggered exit- Year 7 first, year 11 last)

What time will I have lunch?

Year 7 will have lunch at 12:30. Your form tutor will bring you to Best Bite.

Year 8 will have lunch at 12:00. You will have lunch in Hollinshead Hall.

Year 9 will have lunch at 12:00. You will have lunch in Best Bite.

Year 10 will have lunch at 12:30. You can go to The Shack or leave site to go to the village. If you go into any shop you will have to wear a face covering.

Year 11 will have lunch at 12:05. You can go to The Shack or leave site to go to the village. If you go into any shop you will have to wear a face covering.

Year 12 will have lunch at 12:30. You can go off site or eat in Best Bite or the sixth form café. If you go into any shop you will have to wear a face covering.

Year 13 will have lunch at 12:05. You can go off site or eat in Best Bite or the sixth form café. If you go into any shop you will have to wear a face covering.

Your form tutor will give you further information regarding form times and where you need to be at certain times. Lunchtimes will be a lot different and we are relying on you all to be sensible and follow instructions.

Where do I go if it is raining at breaktime?

We have allocated the following areas for wet break:

- 1. Year 7 sports hall**
- 2. Year 8: Hollinshead Hall**
- 3. Year 9: Best Bite**
- 4. Year 10: PE3/Gym**
- 5. Year 11: ADT Quad**
- 6. Year 12/13 – Sixth form area/café/canteen side**

Which entrance should I use to get to school?

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

Can I walk to school with my brother/sister?

Yes. It is nice to be able to walk to school with a sibling. You should avoid walking to school with friends who are not in your year group.

Will there be any extra days for Y6 transition?

We have sent out details about a transition week which will start on Monday 24TH August. Please note that the walkabout scheduled for Tuesday 1st September has been cancelled.

What are the arrangements for the first day?

Year 7 and Y12 should be on the site for 8:35. 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 10:55** and they should go to their year group zone. A member of staff will be on the school gates to remind them.*

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.

Can I collect my 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 I appeal against my 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 STUDENT GUIDE
