



Dear Parents, Carers and Guardians

11 September 2020

I am writing to provide you with a brief update on how the reopening of the school has gone this week and to outline a few changes that we have made in light of the experience of the first few days back.

I'd like to start by saying a big thank you to students and parents for adapting so quickly to the new procedures and arrangements that we have put in place to help us manage the current Coronavirus risk. It has been great to see everyone back in school and I am delighted that attendance this week has been very high indeed. The students I have spoken to have been pleased to be back in school and have enjoyed being back in lessons. The atmosphere in the classroom has been excellent and students are showing very positive attitudes towards their learning. The students are looking smart too in their uniform and the vast majority have come with all of the correct equipment. I'd like to make a special mention to Year 7 students who have had to start in their new school without having had any of the normal induction activities that we would run. They have been brilliant in settling in and I am sure that they will enjoy a very successful future at Lord Grey.

As you know the main methods that we can use to reduce the risk of spreading the virus is to keep excellent hand hygiene, to keep in our year group bubbles and to keep social distance. Your child is required to have washed or sanitised their hands as they enter each classroom and are responsible for cleaning their own desks. This routine is working very well. Our school day has changed so that we keep students in their year groups at break and lunch time and this is working well too. The one thing that we need to work on is keeping better social distance from each other at break and lunchtime. Although they are in their year group we still need students to stand or sit further away from each other so that if anyone does have the virus they don't spread it to others. There have already been schools across the country who have had to close to some year groups because of positive tests. We are very keen to avoid this at Lord Grey as there has been enough disruption to education already. I think it is quite likely that there will be local outbreaks and we need to do the best we can to prevent this from happening here. Please do talk to your child about the importance of keeping apart from others.

In light of our experiences of the first week back we are going to make some adjustments to the timings of the start and end of day.

Start of the day

This week students have not been able to access the school site until 8.30am and as expected this has caused a few problems around the school gates as students have waited for them to open. Now that we have run through the arrival of all students, we are happy that we can open the gates a little earlier at 8.15am. Wherever possible it is still best to arrive at school between 8.30 and 8.45 as under the requirements to keep the year groups separate we have only very limited space to accommodate 7 year groups at the same time in different places.

End of the day

There are too many children exiting the school at one time despite the staggered end to the day. We think that a minor adjustment to the departure times will help to reduce the volume of students coming out of school. From **Monday 14 September Year 7 and Year 8** students will leave at 3.05pm which is five minutes earlier than currently. **Year 9 and Year 10** will continue to leave at 3.15pm and **Year 11** at 3.20pm.



There will be a dedicated place on the playground for younger students to wait for older brothers or sisters. This will help reduce the number of students waiting outside the gates on the pavement.

These changes will have a knock on effect on our **Car park opening times**. The change to the end of the school day will require the visitor car park to be closed at 3.05pm until 3.30pm. Please bear this in mind if using the car park. Some parents find it easier to arrange a meeting point a little further away from school and we would recommend that you do so.

Face coverings/masks

As you will know Milton Keynes is not an area for Government Coronavirus intervention and although there is no requirement for students and staff to wear a face covering/mask, it is good to see students wearing them when indoors around communal areas such as stairs and corridors. Now that the school is full again more students may wish to wear their face coverings/masks when indoors. Please remember that they shouldn't be worn in lessons and they should be stored safely when not in use.

I hope that this brief update is helpful. We are constantly reviewing our procedures and I am sure that I'll be writing again soon with further updates as the term progresses. Thank you again for your efforts in making your children ready for the new environment in which we are working in. It has been wonderful to have them back in school again.

Yours sincerely

Jim Parker
Principal