

Frequently asked questions around returning to school

Should face masks be worn by students in school?

Yes, students should bring a plain facemask to school with them. These must to be worn in all shared areas of the school such as corridors and dining areas prior to eating. If students forget their mask they will be provided with one. Students should keep their mask in a re-sealable plastic bag, such as a sandwich or freezer bag, to keep it clean and sanitary when not in use.

Students will be responsible for ensuring that their mask is washed and brought into school each day.

In school, we will be showing students how to safely wear their face mask. Safe wearing of face coverings requires cleaning of hands before and after touching – including to remove or put them on. Where a face covering becomes damp, it should not be worn and the face covering should be replaced carefully. Students must not touch the front of their face covering during use or when removing it and they must dispose of temporary face coverings in a waste bin (not recycling bin) or place reusable face coverings in a plastic bag they can take home with them, and then wash their hands again.

Government guidance now requires the use of face masks/coverings in schools in a local lockdown area. At this point in time, this does not apply to us. However, the scientific benefits of wearing a face mask, when social distancing cannot easily be maintained are clear – they help to cut transmission rates. Our Trust has made the decision, across all its eight schools to request that students and staff wear face coverings when in corridors or communal areas. If there is a specific medical reason why this cannot apply to your child, we ask that you contact their Year Leader to discuss the matter.

Wearing a mask is essential for the safety of all students and staff. The behaviour system and relevant sanctions will be followed for any student refusing to wear a mask.

What happens if a student or member of staff shows symptoms of COVID-19 while at school

Any children showing symptoms will be:

- isolated immediately and looked after by a member of staff
- a parent/carer will be contacted immediately so arrangements can be made for the child to be collected
- they will then be sent home as soon as possible and you will need to arrange a test
- any staff member will be sent home and will be advised to arrange to be tested

What should I do if someone in my household develops symptoms?

The main symptoms of COVID-19 are:

- A high temperature
- A new and continuous cough (coughing a lot for more than an hour or 3 or more coughing episodes in 24 hours)
- A loss of, or change in, normal sense of taste and smell

- The whole household should isolate immediately and arrange a test for anyone with symptoms by calling 119 or going to <https://www.nhs.uk/conditions/coronavirus-covid-19/>
- Your child should not attend school and you should call to let us know who in your household has symptoms.
- Please arrange a Covid-19 test for your child as soon as possible and provide evidence of the result, whether it is negative or positive, for our attendance records.

What should I do if my child or a member of my household has a positive test?

If a test result for your child or member of your household is positive you must inform school immediately. Your child must continue to self-isolate for at least 10 days from when their symptoms started. They can return to school only if they do not have symptoms other than cough or loss of sense of smell/taste. The 10-day period starts from the day when they first became ill. If they still have a high temperature, they should keep self-isolating until their temperature returns to normal. However, they could have another virus such as cold or flu in which case it is still best to avoid contact with other people until they are better

The rest of your household should self- isolate for 14 days from when your child's symptoms started

If a member of your household has symptoms and tests positive your child must self-isolate for 14 days from the day the household members symptoms started. They will not be able to attend school until the end of the 14 days and should only return to school if they are/have remained well

What happens if there is a positive case of COVID-19 in school?

The North East Health Protection Team will work with the school and carry out a risk assessment. A letter will be sent home to inform you if you child needs to self-isolate.

Can students still use lockers?

No, lockers will not be in use in the immediate future as students will remain in their bubbles in specific areas and will not be able to move to their lockers. Students will mostly remain in the same room so will not have to carry items around. Any students with a special educational need that specifically requires a locker, will be supported on a one to one basis through our SENDCO.

Can students bring bags and pencil cases?

Yes, please come prepared for learning but do not share your equipment with other students.

Will students get a planner?

Yes. Planners will be given out by advisors during their extended advisory.

Will there still be PE and dance lessons?

There will still be PE lessons and KS4 dance. Students should bring their PE kit with them. Changing rooms will be in operation with Covid-19 safety measures in place. Students will not need their PE or dance kit on their first day back.

What happens at break and lunch time?

Lunches have been arranged to ensure each year group remains in their bubble. Heads of year will explain this on return to school.

There will be a limited menu for break and lunchtime. Menus will be published in advance on the school website and Facebook page so students can decide which days they would like to have lunch from the canteen or if they would prefer to bring a packed lunch.

Transport

Students travelling on buses should follow the government guidance on face coverings when using bus services.

What will happen when students arrive to school?

Students should enter school via the allocated gate for their year group where they will be met by their advisors. Please check the school website and Facebook page for more information on staggered start times, entry gates and muster points for each year group.

Year 7 will be welcomed at the gate on their first day by pastoral staff and taken to meet their advisors.

Parents and carers dropping off and picking up

If you are travelling by car to drop off, please do so away from the school entrance where possible so that congestion is avoided. Please keep the entrance ways clear for students and do not stop to speak to other parents.

Visitors

Parents and carers **must** call in advance to make an appointment if they want to speak to a member of staff. Unannounced visitors will not be allowed into the school building.