

27 August 2020

Dear Students & Parents

September return to Sixth Form

I hope everyone has had a restful break and is looking forward to returning next week. Prior to this, I wanted to ensure that everyone was aware of the expectations relating to social distancing and new procedures on all sites.

I have attached a copy of the letter which I sent out in the Summer term, but also wanted to address a few frequently answered questions.

Will students need to wear face masks?

The government released their guidance yesterday and students will need to bring a facemask into school with them. We are drawing up more specific guidance relating to this and will send out details on Tuesday, at the latest.

Will students need to bring food and drink with them to school?

Students need to bring all the water they need into school with them - this is because the water fountains will not be used. There will be food available for students as detailed in the attached letter.

Are there specific toilets that the students must use?

For year 13, students will have exclusive use of the Sixth Form building and so will use the toilets there. For year 12, students will use the toilets on the Mendip Studio School building.

Which outside space will the students have access to?

For year 13, students will have exclusive use of the space behind the Sixth Form building. For year 12, students can make use of either the area behind MSS or the benches and area outside the front of our building.

Where will Sixth Form lessons take place?

For year 13, all Sixth Form lessons will take place in the Sixth Form building, except for where specialist facilities are required. For year 12, all lessons will take place on our building.

Students need to follow the guidance on the attached letter for when they have a lesson outside the Sixth Form block.

Please be aware that, for ventilation, all windows will be open at all times, so please make sure you have appropriate warm clothing.

Where can I study when I am not in lessons?

For year 13, the Sixth Form atrium and the quiet study room will be available for you to use for study. These desks have been set out in rows and it is important that these remain in this

layout and are not moved. In year 12, the R&D hub atrium on the centre of our school) can be used.

Do I have to be on site all day?

To allow us to ensure you are safe in school, we have had to use more areas as classrooms and to allow for sensible social distancing we will not be able to have the same numbers in some rooms as we might do normally. To help with this, we are going to allow students to have periods of home study from the start of September. This is something students must use wisely or they will fall behind. If you are unable to get home, you may stay in school and use one of the study areas available to you. The gates for the site will open at both break and lunchtime to allow students to leave the site. It is vitally important that you sign in and out of site when you arrive and leave - for health and safety reasons, we know who is on site at all times. You will not be able to leave the site to "pop to the shops", so please plan accordingly.

Mr Leeder and Mrs Willcox will contact home if they feel that you would benefit from being on site all day or if you are falling behind with your studies. This greater freedom is still a privilege and we ultimately want you to be successful in your studies so we will remove the privilege, if needed.

Do I have to attend tutor?

Yes. Tutors will be completing regular mentoring sessions and this can either be remotely or will be socially distanced meetings in person. Your tutors are still there to support you and you should make sure to contact them or Mr Leeder, if you need additional support.

Are students able to use the Sixth Form (Year 13) or MSS (Year 12) for study after school?

Students are able to use these areas for study if needed. This, however, needs to be arranged with either Mr Leeder beforehand, due to the in-depth cleaning required on a daily basis. Sixth Form Subject Hubs or Catch Up sessions will still take place, but these will all take place in the Sixth Form building or MSS. Subjects will also run subject support sessions after school similarly, and we will send out a timetable of these once they are confirmed.

Where can I find out about my Year 13 start of year assessments?

The timetable and roomings for these are on the google classroom for your year group. On the MSS and Writhlington site, morning sessions will start at 9am and afternoon sessions at 1pm. Due to the Covid restrictions some of the exam procedures have changed. You will be able to take coats and bags into the exam room and will need to keep these underneath your desk. If you have a mobile phone then this must remain in your bag switched off. Your assessment papers will be on the desk when you arrive and you will be asked to put them in a box as you leave the exam at the end. We are not able to give out any equipment in the exam rooms, so please make sure you have everything you need with you. If you forget something please go to the Sixth Form office beforehand.

When will my timetable be available?

If you are joining Year 12 then your timetable will be given to you at the start of term. If you are joining Year 13 then your timetable will be available on the Insight/ the Portal by Wednesday 2nd September. If you have any problems logging on them please contact Ms Grainger on 01761 402280.

To view the risk assessments please go to our website. <https://www.msnsixth.com/current-students>

We look forward to welcoming you back in school next week. If you have any worries or concerns please do not hesitate to get in touch.

Yours faithfully



Mrs K Ward
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Midsomer Norton Schools Partnership