

Sunday, 4th July, 2020

Dear Parents and Carers,

I hope you are all having a restful weekend?

You will know that the long awaited guidance for full reopening of schools in September was published on Thursday. I have added the link below if you would like to read it – if you do, you'll need to set aside quite a bit of time.

The Senior Leadership team met for most of Friday, and were in contact most of yesterday, and we have come up with our 'Direction of Travel' which outlines the principles we are planning to adopt to ensure we can open fully in September under the guiding principle of:

'Teaching a full and balanced curriculum in a safe environment; ensuring gaps in learning are quickly diagnosed and dealt with.'



Furthermore, we have agreed that:

'Any changes to the norm (how Paulet operates day to day) will be time limited to the Autumn Term in the first instance'.



Here is the link to the guidance document that we are working from:



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



I will send a weekly email (Friday afternoon) over the summer holiday to your child's email address – please ask them to check each week; I will also announce the email over social media. The email will update you on plans for reopening. On Friday 21st August I will email with final details for reopening.

In the meantime, here are some of our 'big principle' thoughts for September:
(More detail to follow)

1. The school will be split into three ZONES, each having separate entrances and exits
2. ZONES will be:
 - a. ZONE 1 – Years 7 and 8
 - b. ZONE 2 – Years 9 to 11
 - c. ZONE 3 – 6th Form
3. There will be a strictly adhered to one-way system through key routes of each ZONE for students
4. There will be hand sanitizer available throughout the school and at all entrances / exits; there will be enhanced and more regular cleaning of 'frequently touched surfaces' and toilets

5. Face masks / coverings will not be worn in school; students using public transport will remove face masks / coverings before entering school (this is clearly stated in the DfE guidance)
6. We will expect full uniform to be worn (we are aware that some families may struggle to purchase everything before 1st September – please speak to the Head if Year in this case)
7. There will be full catering open in school but we are encouraging students to bring packed lunches if they can; students in receipt of free school meals will receive their entitlement
8. We will temporarily remove the water fountains so students should come to school with a suitable full water bottle daily
9. We will not lend equipment to students; each student will be provided with a simple set of school equipment on the first day which they and they alone must use; they can obviously bring their own from home but, again, it must not be shared
10. All homework will be set using weekly emails or via online resources; this will allow good habits formed during the lockdown to continue and act as preparation should the need arise to respond to a local lock-down
11. There will be no visitors allowed in school without a prior booked appointment; communication with parents / carers will be through email and telephone conversations in the first instance
12. We will follow all regulations around what to do in the event a student or member of staff becomes ill with Covid-19 symptoms and or we have a confirmed positive Covid-19 test result. These regulations are detailed in the DfE document I have linked to this letter

I think that is enough for now; there is still much to do and details to finalise. I wanted to give you a 'flavour' of how we are forming our plans. As a parent myself, this is the sort of information I want to receive from my daughters' schools.

I have been delighted by the amount of work that students are bringing to school to show their tutors and teachers; please keep this safe so it can be brought back in September. It will be invaluable in diagnosing gaps in learning and assessing progress; we will also be rewarding the hardest working students!

A last thought specifically for our current students. In September we will be welcoming 160 new Year 7 students and a significant number of Year 12 students from other schools. They will all be nervous, maybe even a little anxious. It is the duty of all of us to do all we can to welcome these new students into our school; to show them that 'The Paulet Way' is about demonstrating we are a caring, helpful and empathetic community. To show them that, above all, #WEAREPAULET!

Kind Regards

A handwritten signature in blue ink, appearing to read "Ian McArthur".

Ian McArthur
Headteacher

#WEAREPAULET