

Our ref: ljm/KV/Correspondence

28 August 2020

Dear Parents/Carers

Re: Start of Autumn Term 2020

It has now been over five months since I began communicating with our community to introduce myself and keep everyone updated with the many changes that we have all faced in recent times. It is a huge pleasure for me to say that this will be the final letter I will be sending before we welcome back your child to The City of Leicester College. As you know, we have been working hard all summer to ensure our site is as safe as it possibly can be for our students and our staff.

Our full risk assessment can be found on our Covid-19 page on The City of Leicester College website <http://www.cityleicester.co.uk/covid-19/> and the video produced by Mr Hunt summarising our approach can be found here: <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=Rxxvviu2Nihg>

I am sure that you all know when your child will return to school but for the sake of clarity I am sharing the days from next week that students are expected to be in school.

Tuesday 1st September: Years 7 and Year 11.
Wednesday 2nd September: Years 7, 8 and 11.
Thursday 3rd September: Years 7-11 and Year 13.
Friday 4th September: Years 7-11 and Year 13.
Monday 7th September: All year groups.

While our focus will very much be on trying to support our students to settle back into school again and return to in class learning, there are a number of unique challenges that we will need your support with.

Local Authority Advice

The council continue to update their advice page <https://www.leicester.gov.uk/schools-and-learning/school-and-colleges/returning-to-school-for-the-autumn-term/> and it would be useful if you looked at this before sending your child in to school next week.

Attendance and Punctuality

Students have missed a great deal of time in the classroom and it is really important that you support your children in getting to school on time, every day that they are able to attend. This will be made complicated due to the social distancing, self-isolation and travel guidance issued by the government so it is important that you give some thought to how you will get your child to school on time each day. The attendance across the city has been very high in the schools that have opened so far, which has been very positive.

Transport

The guidance from the government and the council is to avoid public transport wherever possible. I have attached a letter produced by the council that shows the travel time to The City of Leicester

both on foot and by bike to see if this is a suitable alternative to public transport. Should your child need to use public transport they must wear face coverings. If you are dropping your child at school, please drop them away from the entrance to keep traffic moving and ensure social distancing.

Self-Isolation

If any child is shielding, shows symptoms or is living with someone who has Covid-19 then they need to stay at home in line with government guidance. Please let the school office know the reason for your child being off school and seek out a test immediately. **Please inform the school of the results of the test as soon as you have them.**

Social Distancing and Arrival to the School Site

It is very important that we maintain social distancing between adults and limit the mixing of year group bubbles. **Parents are not allowed on site, including into the car park at any time** unless they have a prior appointment or arrangement agreed with the school in advance. Please make sure your child arrives between 8:00am and 8:20am, unless they are in the Sixth Form where they will need to arrive at 8:40am on their first day. Year 7 and 9 will be entering through the community entrance. Year 8 and 10 will be entering through the main entrance and Year 11, 12 and 13 will be entering through the middle entrance normally used by the Sixth Form. Staff will be available to direct students in the morning if they are unsure and parents will not be allowed to enter the site.

Face Coverings

As you may have seen in the news, it is now mandatory for all students and staff to wear face coverings in communal areas and we will be enforcing this expectation. Students and staff will also be able to wear face coverings in lessons unless they are misused or pose an infection risk. Please ensure you send your child in with a suitable plain, dark face covering each day.

Food and Drink

A limited food menu will be available for students in school. However, catering staff will not be accepting cash so it is important that you use the cashless catering system. Furthermore, to reduce possible spread of infection **please send your children with water to last them the day** to ensure they stay well hydrated.

Uniform

Where possible students should be returning to school in their full school uniform as the Uniform Direct website has been taking orders over the summer and the shop has been open for some time. If you are struggling to secure uniform from Uniform Direct then please contact your child's Head of Year to discuss these issues. All students should still be wearing a plain white shirt and black trousers/dress with plain black footwear even if you have been unable to purchase the blazer or tie.

PE Lessons

Students will all take part in socially distanced PE lessons that will help our students develop or regain their physical fitness and regain their confidence. Students should wear PE kit to school on days that they have PE which includes not wearing jewellery and bringing a change of top and shoes in a plastic bag in case they get muddy or wet. Lessons will, for the most part, be outside so it would be good if students had a jumper or 'performance jacket' (i.e. not their normal coat) to keep themselves warm. If you have already seen your child's timetable and you know they have PE on their first day, please send them in PE kit but this is not essential so please do not worry if you have not been able to access the timetable through the SIMS Parent App. Boys will begin by learning football, fitness and athletics while Girls will begin with netball, tennis and fitness.

We have a very thorough program of induction back into school that will consider the physical and mental wellbeing of your child and prepare them for the challenges of returning to school. There is however no substitute for a parent/carer having a conversation with their child about any anxieties or questions that they have, so please take the time to discuss the importance of regular handwashing and excellent behaviour as well as the need to work hard when we all return to school.

I hope you have a great bank holiday with your families and I look forward to welcoming all of your children back next week.

Yours sincerely

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to be 'K. Vernon', enclosed in a light blue rectangular box.

Mr K. Vernon
Head Teacher