

19th August 2020

Welcome back – Arrangements for September

Dear parents/carers,

I hope you and your families are safe and well and enjoying the summer break. I know you are all now thinking ahead to the advent of the Autumn Term, and so I am writing to share our start of term arrangements with you. We are all very excited to welcome your child back to Compass, in line with the government's direction that all pupils should return to school in September.

Some of you may feel that the lockdown from March may have impacted on your child's learning. Please rest assured that we have undertaken extensive planning to make sure that their return to school is both safe, and specifically structured to ensure a return to learning as usual, in as much as that is possible.

In fact, our partial re-opening of the school in June went very smoothly, and provided an incredibly useful test run for our return to successful school life and learning. Since then, we have made additional adjustments to welcome all pupils back, including enhanced hygiene facilities and the use of year groups zones, so you, and they, can have full confidence in our arrangements as they resume their learning journeys in September.

Start of term

Staff training days

Wednesday 2nd and Thursday 3rd September (School is closed to pupils)

Year 7 induction morning

Friday 4th September from 8:45 am – 12:00 pm

All pupils in school

Monday 7th September

- Year 11 - 8:30 entrance through main gate, on Drummond Road
- Year 10 - 8:45 entrance through football playground, on Drummond Road
- Year 9 - 9:00 entrance through main gate, on Drummond Road
- Year 8 - 9:15 entrance on Webster Road (Near Sports Hall)
- Year 7 - 8:30 entrance on Webster Road (Near Sports Hall)

What has changed?

The health and safety of pupils is our absolute priority and so extensive arrangements have been put in place to ensure the risk of transmission of Covid-19 is minimal. These include:

- Gates opening at 8:30 am to reduce mixing at the start of the day
- The use of zones for each year group and 3 separate entrances to the school
- Enhanced arrangements for hygiene including cleaning, hand sanitising and washing

In further developments, you will also be pleased to know that work has started on the new school building so pupils will get a glimpse of the facilities as they progress. Pupils will also notice faster IT connections as our servers and wireless network have been replaced with the latest equipment. A range of other improvements have been made including redecoration of spaces and pupils will see the difference!

Travel

Pupils are encouraged to walk, cycle or scoot to school where possible. Where your child needs to use public transport, they are required to wear a mask. Please see further information on travel: <https://tfl.gov.uk/campaign/coronavirus>

If you are planning to drop your child off and/or pick them up by car, do not leave the vehicle. Instead let your child know where you will meet them. Pupils must enter via the designated entrance for their year group, which will be clearly signposted.

Contacting the school

To support our efforts, we ask that parents do not enter the school except for specific events such as parents' evenings and our [year 6 open events](#). However, please do email or call the school office if you have any queries or need to drop anything off. You can also email your child's head of year or Learning Family Tutor. A full list of contacts for each year group will be sent to you at the start of term.

Responding to cases

The school is following Government guidance in its arrangements should there be a suspected case of coronavirus. If a pupil becomes unwell in school with a new, continuous cough or a high temperature their parents or carer will be contacted to collect them and they are advised to follow [COVID-19: guidance for households](#).

Where a pupil is required to shield, virtual teaching and learning arrangements will be put in place for them to study from home.

Please ensure all your contact details are up-to-date including your emergency contact so a responsible adult is on standby to collect your child if they become unwell during the school day. You will soon receive a message from SIMS Parent with a link to check your information and keep it up to date.

If the school is asked to close temporarily by the Health Protection Team or local authority, we intend to remain open for vulnerable children and the children of key workers, while providing remote education for other pupils.

Catch Up/re-integration

Curriculum adjustment

We are aware that there is no substitute for high-quality face to face teaching so we have adjusted our teaching and learning to identify any gaps and work to close them where necessary. All subject areas have updated their curriculum journeys with this in mind and in the light of Ofqual adjustments to GCSE specifications. We will continue our assessment cycle and reporting arrangements at the end of each term so you know how your child is progressing.

Year 7-9 tests

We will use external testing for pupils in years 7-9 to form a comprehensive view of each pupil so the school and parents can understand their strengths and areas for improvement compared to pupils across the country who sit the same assessments. These assessments will test English, Mathematics and for year 7 pupils, also Cognitive Ability Tests (CATs).

Well-being

We know that the majority of our pupils have been out of school for a significant period and will need to re-adjust. The school will ensure this process is as smooth as possible by maintaining our high expectations of [behaviour and attendance](#). We appreciate parents' full support with this. In addition, there will be a range of support measures in place from our pastoral and inclusion teams, school counsellor, nurse and external mentoring organisations.

The School Day

Year 7, 8 and 9

- Gates open 8:30 am
- All pupils on-site by 8:40 am
- School ends Monday and Tuesday at 3:50 pm, and then 2:55 pm Wednesday to Friday

Year 9 Enrichment scheduled to take place on Wednesdays 2:00 – 2:55 pm will not run face to face for the first half-term. This means on Wednesdays year 9 pupils will finish school 2:00 pm and complete an enrichment activity from home. Exceptions are pupils studying Triple Science – they will have a science lesson at this time. There may be assessments carried out during this period in the first weeks of term. More details to follow.

Year 10

- Gates open 8:30 am
- All pupils on-site by 8:40 am
- School ends Monday to Thursday at 3:50 pm, and then 2:55 pm on Friday

Year 11

- Gates open 8:30 am
- All pupils on-site by 8:40 am
- School ends Monday to Thursday at 4:45 pm, and then 3:50 pm on Friday

Lunch

A healthy school meal will be provided for all pupils each day at a minimal cost of £2.20. Pupils can choose between a hot or cold lunch and there will be snacks available to purchase at breaktime not exceeding £1.30. We do not allow pupil to bring their own packed lunch to school and we ask that any break time snacks are healthy and under 100 calories. Parents must ensure that they have deposited funds into their child's sQuid account to purchase meals and snacks. Please contact info@compass-schools.com if you wish to register for Free School Meals.

Uniform and equipment

We will continue to uphold our full [behaviour and uniform expectations](#) in September and I would appreciate parents' full co-operation to ensure pupils are school-ready. In previous terms, common issues have included black trousers instead of grey (trousers must be grey), colours in hair and piercings. Please re-read the linked document to ensure your child's learning is not disrupted further due to a lack of correct uniform.

In order to avoid mixing in changing rooms, pupils will need to attend school in full PE kit on the days they have practical PE and will attend all their lessons in PE kit on that day. Please visit the [website](#) for details on our PE kit.

All pupils must have their own equipment. They should bring a black or blue pen, green pen, pencil, sharpener, ruler, eraser, reading book (regularly updated), Casio Scientific Calculator, glue and a school planner. They must also have a school bag large enough to carry all their exercise books and equipment for each day.

Pupils will not be required to wear masks on the school site. On arrival at school they should remove their mask and keep it in a plastic bag in their school bag.

What happens next?

We appreciate that this has been a challenging time all round for parents, carers and pupils, but it is our aim to make the transition back to school as smooth as possible. We hope to be in touch with as many of you as possible by phone before the start of term to check in on how you are getting on with preparations to return so do look out for our call. Also look out for our back to school video which will give you and your child further information and reassurance about their return. May I take this opportunity to wish you the best for the rest of the summer break and I look forward to welcoming all pupils back in September.

Yours sincerely,



Marcus Huntley
Principal