



26th August 2020

Reopening in September 2020 – Current Year 8 going into Year 9

Being Covid Secure is Everyone's Responsibility

Dear parents/carers,

Following the Government's announcement confirming that all students are expected to return to school full time in September, we are very much looking forward to welcoming your child into school. This letter outlines the plans and procedures we have in place to reduce risk and ensure the safety of staff and students in school.

Year 9 students are expected to return to school on **Thursday 3rd September** and will undertake an induction programme with tutors from **10am – 12pm**. They will not be in school on Friday 4th September to allow for induction with other year groups as it is essential that all students understand fully the new routines and expectations in place, which will help to keep everyone safe. **All year groups will then start the new term on Monday 7th September.** Year 9 are expected to be in school from 9.10am until 3.00pm each day and this will then be reviewed as the term progresses.

The guidance acknowledges that there is not a one size fits all approach and school leaders will be best placed to understand the needs of their schools and communities. As a result of this, we have updated our risk assessment, which is available on the school website (<http://www.blaconhighschool.net/risk-assessment-for-covid-secure-schools/>) and will continue to do so as further guidance is released.

One key element of reducing the risk of transmission is by limiting the number of contacts between students. We have grouped students in two bubbles; Key Stage 3 (Years 7 and 8) and Key Stage 4 (Years 9, 10 and 11) and will be implementing the following control measures to support this;

- Staggered start and end time for each Key Stage
- Years 7 and 8 to arrive at 8.45am and depart at 2.35pm
- Years 9, 10 and 11 to arrive at 9.10 and depart at 3.00pm
- Using designated entrances and exits to the school for different year groups
- Staggered breaks and lunches for each bubble
- 2 x 20 minute breaks (To replace 1 – 15 minute break)
- 2 x 40 minute lunch breaks (To replace 1 – 45 minute break)
- 55 minute lessons (To replace 60 minute lessons)
- One way system in place with reduced numbers of students moving at any one time during the school day (Half of the school moving at one time)
- Time allocated for enhanced cleaning in between each use in the diner
- Enhanced and more frequent cleaning of toilets and surfaces throughout the day
- Students will be cleaning their table and chair on departure from each classroom with antibacterial wipes
- Every student will be issued with a pencil case, pen, pencil and ruler for their personal use and should bring it into school each day
- Year groups zoned into areas outside the building to enjoy social time and to avoid mixing between different year groups within their bubble
- Covered areas for students to eat outside

Melbourne Road, Blacon, Chester, CH1 5JH

Phone 01244 371 475 Email admin@blaconhigh.cheshire.sch.uk

Website www.blaconhighschool.net Headteacher Mrs Rachel Hudson BA, MSc, NPQH



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The Government have confirmed that schools must consider how to minimise the number of contacts that a student has during the school day as part of implementing the system of controls to reduce the risk of transmission. These systems of control are grouped into 'prevention' and 'response to any infection' and details of each can be found here <https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/actions-for-schools-during-the-coronavirus-outbreak/guidance-for-full-opening-schools>

We will share expectations and routines with students via a range of methods including posters around school and displayed on the screens, letters, recorded messages and animated videos. We will dedicate time during the students' first day in school to reinforce these safety measures as part of the induction process and make clear expectations on our climate for learning in a Covid Safe school.

Uniform

We expect all students to be in full uniform for September and I enclose a copy of our uniform policy for you. Please ensure that students have black school shoes and not trainers, knee length skirts, no piercings other than one plain pair of stud earrings, no false nails and hairstyles appropriate for school (no extreme hairstyles or bright colours and not excessively short). We understand that not all blazers have arrived in time for September and ask that students are wearing blazers as soon as they arrive or by October half term. All students must adhere to the uniform policy, which reflects our high expectations. We expect students to wear uniform properly at all times. Uniform can be purchased from Uniformity, 22-26 Handbridge, Chester, CH4 7JE. Telephone - 01244 680797. We also have a donation station in school with donated uniform to support families wherever needed. If you are having any issues with purchasing uniform, please contact our family support team.

Attendance

It is both the Government's and our expectation that all students should return to school in September and school attendance will therefore be mandatory again. Full attendance will minimise as far as possible, the longer-term impact of the pandemic on students' education, wellbeing and wider development. In the event of you feeling anxious about a return to school, please contact a member of our pastoral team who will be able to support you as a family in ensuring that students have full attendance.

How to top up your child's account for food

In line with government advice we are removing the finger print system we currently have in place so money will need to be topped up on accounts using ParentPay. We will be sending out a further letter for those students who don't currently have a ParentPay account set up, which will contain the details of each individual's account and password, with instructions on how to set up their account. From September, breakfast will be distributed to every student on a Friday, to cover the following week until we are in a position to open Breakfast Club once more.

Lockers

We are unable to provide students with lockers at the moment due to Covid restrictions. Students may bring a bag to school to keep their belongings in and will be allowed to keep it with them throughout the day. We would encourage students to bring a packet of tissues to support the 'Catch it, Bin it, Kill it' approach in order to minimise the transfer of germs to others.

PE Kit

We are unable to provide facilities for students to change for PE at the moment due to Covid restrictions and give permission for students to wear their PE kit into school and for the day, when they have PE on their timetable. Timetables will be issued to students in Year 7 next Thursday so they will then know which days to wear their PE kit.

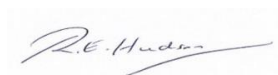
Face Masks

The guidance on face masks in schools, has changed this week. In the event of a local lock down, staff and students would be expected to wear a mask during lesson changeover and at break/lunchtimes. In the meantime, any student travelling on public transport or the minibus, will be required to wear a mask to and from school. The Government are not recommending that face coverings are necessary in schools but if students feel more comfortable wearing one, they may do so during lesson changeovers and at break/lunch and must follow the guidance on how they should be worn and disposed of safely.

<https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/face-coverings-when-to-wear-one-and-how-to-make-your-own/face-coverings-when-to-wear-one-and-how-to-make-your-own>

We very much look forward to meeting all of our students in Year 9 on Thursday 3rd September and look forward to everything that we will achieve together.

Regards,



Rachel Hudson
Headteacher

School Uniform 2020-21

All students must adhere to the uniform policy, which reflects our high expectations. We expect students to wear uniform properly at all times, including travelling to and from school and when on any school related activities. Uniform can be purchased from Uniformity, 22-26 Handbridge, Chester, CH4 7JE Tel: 01244 680797.

If you are having issues with purchasing uniform, please contact our family support team.

If there is a specific reason why uniform cannot be brought into school, a note must be written from home in student planners and shown to Progress Leaders.

All Students Should Follow The Policy Below:

Uniform Required For All Students	Additional Guidance:
School blazer	To be worn at all times.
School Tie	To be worn at all times.
Plain white school shirt	Long or short sleeved, buttoned to the top and tucked in.
Plain Black V neck jumper	No hooded sweatshirts, no logos, badges or brand names.

Black school skirt	Loose fitting, no shorter than just above the knee (no pencil skirt/no pinafore dresses).
Tailored Black school trousers	Tailored School style trousers no jeans/cords/leggings/jersey style.
Plain black tights or black socks	Socks with bows, frills or lace not allowed. Must be below the knee.
Black shoes	No heels, wedges, boots canvas/plimsolls. No trainers or trainer shoes. No visible brand name on shoes.
Grey jumper for PE	Optional
White School polo shirt for PE	Compulsory
Black Football shorts/Black Leggings with school logo	Compulsory
White PE socks	Compulsory, no ankle socks.

Additional Uniform Expectations

Jewellery: One pair of stud earrings can be worn in the ear lobe no other piercings are allowed.

Hair: Hair-Styles must be appropriate for school, no extreme hairstyles or brightly coloured hair. Hair should be natural colour. Hair styles should not be excessively short or shaven (no less than a number one).

Make up: Make-Up should not be worn by students in Years 7–9. Light Make-Up maybe worn in Years 10-11 (Students wearing excessively heavy Make-Up will be asked to remove it).

Nails: No coloured nail varnish allowed and also No Acrylic/Gel Nails.

Failure to adhere to the school uniform policy will result in sanctions in line with the school behaviour policy.