

SOUTHEND HIGH SCHOOL FOR BOYS

ACADEMY GRAMMAR SCHOOL

Prittlewell Chase, Southend-on-Sea, Essex, SS0 0RG
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Headteacher: Robin M Bevan MA MEd PhD FRSA



June 8th, 2020

Dear Parents,

Ever since 'closure' we have been looking forward to welcoming back into school as many pupils as possible. We want that return to be an immensely positive and supportive experience. When pupils return to school it needs to be in a safe environment with access to worthwhile classroom opportunities.

Last week, I was invited to a joint meeting with the Director of Public Health in Southend. He was able to confirm that there is a 'significant and sustained downward trend in infection rates' in the town. His prognosis was positive but cautious. Significantly, he supported the wider opening of secondary schools from June 15th, but was emphatic that this is only appropriate with relevant safety measures in place. The general principles that must apply to our on-site provision include:

- ✓ sustained physical distancing between all individuals on site;
- ✓ regular reinforcement of relevant personal hygiene;
- ✓ very limited social mixing between groups;
- ✓ the protection of vulnerable individuals;
- ✓ robust cleaning of rooms and equipment; and
- ✓ provision of PPE for close contact (such as administering first aid).

The logistical challenges arising from these constraints are significant, not least in a building with narrow corridors, limited sanitary facilities and many small classrooms. In addition, guidance indicates that we should discourage travel at peak times, operate staggered start and finish times, avoid teachers moving from one group to another, and maintain social distancing protocols in our catering service. Appropriate planning has now been completed and a detailed risk assessment undertaken. The government guidance indicates that from June 15th, "... secondary schools [should] ... begin offering some face-to-face support to year 10 and 12 pupils to supplement their remote education, which should remain their predominant mode of education during this term."



We had made provisional plans to provide every pupil in Years 7-9 with an opportunity to return to school, for at least one day, before the end of July. The Regional Schools Commissioner has specifically advised us that **this is not permissible**.

Our provision for 'vulnerable' pupils and the children of key-workers will continue over the coming weeks, on the same basis as we have sustained since 'closure'.

Every student in Years 10 and 12 will be provided with several dates, on a rota, when they are expected to attend school. We look forward to seeing every member of our community, back in school, as soon as possible.



Robin M. Bevan
Headteacher

I appreciate that some parents and students might have wanted more of these details further in advance. The latest version of the relevant guidance to schools was provided on Thursday of last week, and is still being updated: I hope that you will all appreciate it is better to communicate when the information is certain rather than provisional. Even at this late stage, with rising transmission rates (the R-value) in the East of England, it remains possible that I will have to write again with modified plans.

Provision for Years 10 and 12 – detailed arrangements.

We are encouraging full attendance, but it is vitally important that anyone who feels unwell, or is in a household with others who are unwell, must remain at home. Any absence must be notified in the normal way, by telephone or email, no later than 09:00 on the day in question, so we know whether to expect your son/daughter at school.

We consider it is now appropriate to extend our provision, and promote the opportunity to return to school; but parents are entitled to make the right choice for their family circumstances. There will be no penalty for non-attendance. If a decision is made not to attend, we are asked by the Department for Education to collect a reason in one of the following categories: *illness, suspected or confirmed case of COVID-19; illness (other); shielding; or household isolation*. We recognise that other reasons may also be valid.

During their time in school, students will remain in half-sized groups in segregated areas.

The programme for each student, on-site, will include the opportunity to continue with their remote learning; a progress check regarding their academic study; pastoral well-being support and access to advice/guidance regarding careers/UCAS as appropriate.

Each group will have a dedicated base room for study with ICT access; their own indoor social space; an outdoor recreation space and a specified toilet/hand-washing block. The outdoor space will also serve as the muster point in case of fire evacuation. The rooms will be well ventilated with fresh air (with very limited use of any re-circulating air conditioning).

Students should walk or cycle if at all possible, even if this is not their usual choice *or* involves a longer journey that might be regularly sustainable. Otherwise, private transport is currently preferred – in the guidance – to public transport, although car-sharing *between* student groups is not recommended. Those who do use public transport are reminded to observe the recommended distancing advice.

Government guidelines recommend the use of a face-covering on public transport, but this is not deemed to be necessary or beneficial in the school environment. (Face-masks will only be worn by staff who are required to be in close contact with a pupil when, for example, administering first aid.)

Arrival and departure times are *identified* and *different* for each group.

Normal summer uniform is expected: shirt, tie, trousers/skirt but no blazer.

Catering will be available: students will be able to order from a menu on arrival at school, the cost will be deducted from the individual student's account, and the food provided in a named disposable container. Students may, alternatively, bring their own packed lunch. We will be using the designated outdoor spaces as 'eating areas'.

Two members of teaching staff, on rota, will be assigned to each group with additional support staff.

There will be no student provision on a Wednesday to allow for a more thorough mid-week clean of the facilities.

Each student will be assigned to one of four base rooms: N7, H6, Library or L3. Arrival times for each group are clearly stated. On arrival students must go straight to their 'indoor social space'. During their time on site, they must not leave the segregated area created for their group.

<i>base room</i>	<i>indoor social space</i>	<i>outdoor recreation</i>	<i>toilets & hand-washing</i>	<i>arrive</i>	<i>leave</i>
N7	MRA	lower sports field	Sports Hall toilets	09:15	14:00
H6	Hall	upper sports field	West End toilets	09:30	14:15
Lib	Lib	astro-turfs	H-block toilets	09:45	14:30
L3	6FCR	playground	L-block toilets	10:00	14:45

The timings allow for 3½ hours of study, a 30 minute morning break and 45 minutes for lunch.

Attendance will follow the pattern outlined in the table below:

		N7	H6	Lib	L3
15-Jun	Monday	10EA1 (Tuscany)	10EA1 (Athens)	12.1 (surnames A-C)	12.1 (surnames D-Z)
16-Jun	Tuesday	10EA2 (Tuscany)	10EA2 (Athens)	12.2 (surnames A-G)	12.2 (surnames H-Z)
17-Jun	Wednesday	<i>cleaning</i>			
18-Jun	Thursday	10EA3 (Tuscany)	10EA3 (Athens)	12.3 (surnames A-H)	12.3 (surnames J-Z)
19-Jun	Friday	10ST1 (Sparta)	10ST1 (Troy)	12.4 (surnames A-L)	12.4 (surnames M-Z)
	Saturday				
	Sunday				
22-Jun	Monday	10ST2 (Sparta)	10ST2 (Troy)	12.5 (surnames A-L)	12.5 (surnames M-Z)
23-Jun	Tuesday	10ST3 (Sparta)	10ST3 (Troy)	12.6 (surnames A-M)	12.6 (surnames N-Z)
24-Jun	Wednesday	<i>cleaning</i>			
25-Jun	Thursday	10EA1 (Tuscany)	10EA1 (Athens)	12.7 (surnames A-R)	12.7 (surnames S-Z)
26-Jun	Friday	10EA2 (Tuscany)	10EA2 (Athens)	12.8 (surnames A-S)	12.8 (surnames T-Z)
	Saturday				
	Sunday				
29-Jun	Monday	10EA3 (Tuscany)	10EA3 (Athens)	12.1 (surnames A-C)	12.1 (surnames D-Z)
30-Jun	Tuesday	10ST1 (Sparta)	10ST1 (Troy)	12.2 (surnames A-G)	12.2 (surnames H-Z)
01-Jul	Wednesday	<i>cleaning</i>			
02-Jul	Thursday	10ST2 (Sparta)	10ST2 (Troy)	12.3 (surnames A-H)	12.3 (surnames J-Z)
03-Jul	Friday	10ST3 (Sparta)	10ST3 (Troy)	12.4 (surnames A-L)	12.4 (surnames M-Z)
	Saturday				
	Sunday				
06-Jul	Monday	10EA1 (Tuscany)	10EA1 (Athens)	12.5 (surnames A-L)	12.5 (surnames M-Z)
07-Jul	Tuesday	10EA2 (Tuscany)	10EA2 (Athens)	12.6 (surnames A-M)	12.6 (surnames N-Z)
08-Jul	Wednesday	<i>cleaning</i>			
09-Jul	Thursday	10EA3 (Tuscany)	10EA3 (Athens)	12.7 (surnames A-R)	12.7 (surnames S-Z)
10-Jul	Friday	10ST1 (Sparta)	10ST1 (Troy)	12.8 (surnames A-S)	12.8 (surnames T-Z)
	Saturday				
	Sunday				
13-Jul	Monday	10ST2 (Sparta)	10ST2 (Troy)	to be determined	
14-Jul	Tuesday	10ST3 (Sparta)	10ST3 (Troy)		
15-Jul	Wednesday	<i>cleaning</i>			
16-Jul	Thursday	to be determined		to be determined	
17-Jul	Friday				
	Saturday				
	Sunday				