

25 August 2020

Dear Parents and Carers,

I hope that you and the students are having an enjoyable summer.

The last 2 weeks have been very much about ensuring that the Year 13 and Year 11 students have been supported as they received their Level 2 and Level 3 grades for A levels, GCSEs and Vocational qualifications. As you will be aware from the media coverage these have been uncertain times for these students with so many changes to the procedure being made by Ofqual. The vast majority of Year 13 students, who wanted to, have now secured a university place and Year 11 students have places on courses for September. If any students are still having difficulty and need help please do not hesitate to get in touch with the College.

Plan for Reopening

Further to my letter dated the 7 August which can be found on the College website, I am just writing to let you know that the draft plans and risk assessment for the reopening of the College in September can be found on the website. Please follow the link below to view them -

<https://www.okehamptoncollege.devon.sch.uk/school-notice>

Return to College on Wednesday 9 September 2020

We are very much looking forward to the students returning on Wednesday 9 September. The plans for the first day of term should be read in conjunction with the overall September reopening plans and are as follows:

The College day begins at 8:45am. Please ensure that all students arrive at College by this time.

Before School

- All students will sanitise before entering the College building.
- Students arriving on buses will be asked to stay on the bus until we are ready to allow them into the school buildings.
- Students in Years 7 to 11 will enter the College from the drive through the second set of doors as they come up the drive (the science doors). This entrance will be signposted.
- Students will then be directed to the designated area:
 - Year 7 to the Octagon Playground.
 - Year 8 to the English Playground.
 - Year 9 to the hard play area behind the Sports Hall.
 - Year 10 to the cricket pitch field.
 - Year 11 to the Astro-turf.
 - Post 16 students will not come into the main College at this time but will go to Wardhayes Campus.
- Students will be met in these areas by the Head of Year, Year Tutors and a member of the Senior Team.

- Students will be placed in their tutor groups and escorted to their classrooms.
- Year 7 will have a short welcome assembly in the playground.

Tutor period

- Tutor period will run from 8:45am until the end of lesson 1, 11:30am. Break time will be taken in line with the timings for each year group on the September reopening plan.

Lesson 2 and the Rest of the School Day

- Lesson 2 will begin at 11.30am.
- From lesson 2 onwards the school day will follow the timings outlined in the September reopening plan.

After School

- In line with the September reopening plan, students living in Okehampton will be dismissed at 15:20pm.
- Students who are catching buses must remain in teaching rooms until their bus is called via the tannoy.

Water Bottles

Please can I ask that the water bottles brought into school in the new term are of the screw top variety so that they can be filled without the lid on. This will reduce the chances of cross contamination between bottles when they are refilled. Students should keep refilling to a minimum and avoid the bottle coming into contact with the water dispenser tap.

Face Masks

Please can I remind you that students who are catching buses into College must wear face masks whilst they are on the bus whether this is a College bus or a public bus. Within lesson times, the other control strategies mean that face coverings are not required. However, the wearing of face coverings when moving between lessons is strongly encouraged. Whilst the World Health Organisation (WHO) now recommends the use of face coverings for the over 12s as part of a broader strategy to control the virus, in the UK the Department for Education currently recommends against this within schools. Therefore, the use of face coverings within the school setting itself cannot be insisted upon at the present time. This policy will be subject to continual review in response to updated national guidance.

As ever thank you for your continuing support in these unusual circumstances. I will write again as other information becomes available.

Best wishes



Derrick Brett
Principal