

Our ref HHU/dg

15 July 2020

Dear parent/carer

We are looking forward to welcoming the new Year 7. This has been a long and challenging period for everyone but we are undoubtedly ready for some form of normality to return.

While many things are going to look and feel different when Year 8-11 students return to The Derby High School. The Year 7 experience will be a completely new one so it should be easier for them to settle in, aside from the usual nervousness that goes with starting secondary school.

The Department for Education guidance has indicated we need to consider frequent cleaning of the school building, regular hand washing, minimising the movement of students around the building and ensuring that adults can maintain a 2-metre distance wherever possible. This means that students will be working in a 'Year Group bubble', taught lessons mainly in one classroom and in a designated area of the school, with staff arriving to the room to teach the class rather than students moving around the building. This is very similar to the system that your child will have experienced at Primary School so it should be very familiar to them.

FORM/TEACHING GROUPS

To maintain a year group 'bubble' and to reduce movement to avoid crossover and busy corridors all form groups will now also be the teaching groups. In Year 7 all groups will be taught in mixed ability groupings. As mentioned during the transition process we have considered information from the primary schools and tried to do everything we can to make sure that students have been placed in a form with a least one person from their feeder Primary school. For those 12 students arriving by themselves from Primary School we have also paid close attention to the best groupings for them too. All Year 7 students will also be able to mix in their wider friendship groups and make new friends from within their year group, during break and lunchtimes.

Space in the building has been our biggest constraint and at the time of writing, we are still planning how to manage lunchtime. Whilst we will be serving lunches we are not yet certain about the range we can offer, including hot food. It would really help us if parents/carer could use the online payment system for school dinners to reduce the handling of cash. See link below.

<https://www.bury.gov.uk/index.aspx?articleid=11370>

THE FIRST WEEK

In order to implement these significant changes and in consideration of the fact that Year 7 have not had a traditional transition process, we intend to take more time inducting your child into school. This is important as it is vital that your child fully understands how secondary school works, the importance of the 7Rs and the consequences to the health and safety of others alongside sanctions imposed should they not be followed.

The other year group prioritised with Year 7 is Year 11. This is an approach that is being taken by all Bury Secondary Schools. Please see the attached letter from the Local Authority supporting this decision.

TUESDAY 1 st September	WEDNESDAY 2 nd September	THURSDAY 3 rd September	FRIDAY 4 th September
Teacher training day	Year 7 (8.40 am – 3.15 pm) and Year 11 (8.40 am – 3.10 pm) in all day	Year 7 (8.40 am – 3.15 pm) and Year 11 (8.40 am – 3.10pm) in all day Year 10 (10.30 am – 1 pm then back full time on Monday)	Year 7 (8.40 am – 3.15 pm) and Year 11 (8.40 am – 3.10pm) in all day Year 8 (9.30 am – 12 pm then back full time on Monday) Year 9 (12.30 pm – 3 pm) then back full time on Monday
Please note that we will not be serving food to Years 8, 9 and 10 this week			

START AND FINISH TIMES IN SEPTEMBER FROM MONDAY 7TH SEPTEMBER 2020

The Department for Education recommends that, if possible, students arrive to school by foot, bicycle or in a car. Please note that the school drive will be a no vehicle zone between 8.35 am and 9.15 am and 2.50 pm and 3.25 pm. If students are travelling on public transport they should follow the guidelines around facemasks at that time.

The Department for Education have also asked that schools stagger their start and end times each day in September. This is so that large numbers of students are not arriving and leaving at the same time. Below are the times allocated for the different year groups. I am sure you will appreciate that it is more essential than ever that students arrive on time. When students arrive via the front or back path they will be directed to an appropriate area outside of the building

YEAR GROUP	7	8	9	10	11
ARRIVAL TIME	8.40 am (wait on the Tennis Courts)	8.50 am (wait on the yard)	9.00 am (wait on the yard)	8.50 am (wait on the Tennis Courts)	8.40 am (wait on the yard)
DEPARTURE TIME	3.15 pm	3.00 pm	3.10 pm	3.00 pm	3.10 pm (note – many subjects will be delivering revision sessions at the end of the day)

Please see the attachment for specific details relevant to your child.

Uniform - We will, of course, be looking forward to getting the new school year off to the best possible start. To this end, we will expect all students to be smartly attired in school uniform from the start of term. Some key points to note:

- A navy-blue blazer must be worn
- Plain black practical leather shoes (not canvas, trainers or coloured laces)
- Girls in Years 7 – 10 must wear a DHS skirt if they wish to choose the skirt option (see website for guidance for Year 11 students)
- Trousers must not be skin tight or 'jean like' and should cover the ankle
- No extreme hairstyles
- If students choose to wear earrings then they should be one small stud in each ear lobe
- No other jewellery such as bracelets, rings, necklaces, other than a suitable wrist watch, should be worn

• When students arrive to school they will not be permitted to enter the building until the start of their day and they will need to line up in the yard or Tennis courts. Given the likelihood that the weather will not always be dry it is vital that your child has a suitable coat to keep them dry and warm. We would remind all parents/carers that hoodies are not an acceptable form of outerwear and they are also very unlikely to be waterproof.

If you are unsure whether a piece of uniform is acceptable please consult the school website before buying it. Uniform is an important part of life at The Derby High School and we will be enforcing our uniform policy very strictly when we return after the summer break.

We will not be using the PE changing rooms for students to change into their PE kit. We are therefore allowing students to come to school in their PE kit on days they have a timetabled PE lesson, are attending a PE club or have a fixture after school. The full PE kit can be found on the website.

Please note that a number of uniform shops are insisting on pre-booked appointments so we would advise you to get booked in as soon as possible.

Students are expected to bring **7** pieces of equipment in each day in a school bag (pen, pencil, ruler, rubber, scientific calculator CASIO FX-83GTX, reading book, pencil case). It is going to be difficult to lend equipment out to students and so we would ask that you also provide a geometry set (including compass and protractor) and that equipment is stored in a large pencil case. We are intending to provide other equipment for students and I would ask that students take good care of this and bring it in to school each day.

It has never been more important for us to be able to communicate with our parents. The best way to do this is via our SIMS parent app (please be aware that texting is very expensive for the school and we do need to manage our spending at present). Instructions to sign up for this are below however, if you need support to do this we are more than happy to talk you through this over the phone (0161 764 1819). It is also essential that we have email contact addresses as well.

SIMS APP – How do I get it?

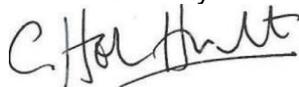
- On your mobile phone/tablet go to the App Store (iPhone) or Play Store (Android)
- Search for **SIMS Parent** and download this app
- To get access to your child's information you must email parentapp@thederbyhighschool.co.uk
- Email your name, your child's name and your child's form (the form information is listed later in the letter)
- You will receive an email back from noreply@sims.co.uk
- In that email, press the button that says "Accept Invitation"
- You can then create an account using your own details – this can be via Facebook, Twitter, Office 365, Microsoft or Google – if you have none of these you can create a new one
- Once registered, it will ask for your child's date of birth as a further security question
- Then you open the app, sign in and all details will show for your child

Whilst we are not going to be able to have school as we know it for some time you have our assurances that we will do our best to ensure that your child has as fulfilling a school experience as possible and continues to make progress in their learning.

I wish you all a safe, enjoyable and relaxing summer break.

(Please see the Greater Manchester Fire and Rescue Service Local Authority Safe4Summer activities <https://manchesterfire.gov.uk/staying-safe/safe4summer/safe4summer-activities/>).

Yours sincerely



MS C H HUBERT
Headteacher

FORM INFORMATION

YEAR 7 - Name

Arrival Time	8.40 am
Waiting area on arrival	Tennis Courts
Teaching Group	
Form Tutor	
Teaching Room	
Lunchtime	Sports Hall/Front of school
Departure Time	3.15 pm

