

The Derby High School

Science and Arts College



Dear parent/carer,

We are all looking forward to the return of your child/children to school next week.

I am sure that most students will be excited about their return to school. I am fully aware though that some students may also be feeling a little anxious about the return to full-time education. As you will know, the Department for Education has stated that the return to school is mandatory for all students so please get in touch if your child has concerns about the start of school and we will do all we can to support them.

Over the summer we have been working hard to get the school ready for September. We have had to make a number of changes to the building to ensure that everywhere feels safe for staff and students. I would like to remind you of the Department for Education plans we have implemented to ensure that your child/children feel safe in school.

- Year groups have been placed in 'bubbles' and will be restricted to zoned areas for the majority of their school day. Communal areas will be cleaned regularly.
- Hand sanitisers have been placed in strategic places around the building and inside/just outside each classroom.
- Corridor movement has been minimised by placing students in the same teaching group for all their lessons at Key Stage 3 (Years 7 – 9) and the Core subject lessons at Key Stage 4 (Years 10 – 11).
- Staggered starts and ends to the school day have been implemented.
- Students will not mix outside their year group 'bubble' at break or lunchtime.

There is a FAQ document that must be read with this letter.

At the time of writing the Department for Education has changed their guidance on face masks. The Secretary of State for Education said on the 25th August – *“Our priority is to get children back to school safely. At each stage we have listened to the latest medical and scientific advice. We have therefore decided to follow the World Health Organisation’s new advice. In local lockdown areas children in year 7 and above should wear face coverings in communal spaces. Outside of local lockdown areas face coverings won’t be required in schools, though schools will have the flexibility to introduce measures if they believe it is right in their specific circumstances. I hope these steps will provide parents, pupils and teachers with further reassurance.”*

As Bury is in an area of local lockdown we are required to follow the above guidance from the Department for Education and all students and staff should wear a face mask when in



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communal areas. If this needs to be discussed further with us please let the school know as soon as possible.

I would ask that as part of preparations for the return to school parents/carers ensure that they have an appropriate face mask for their child/children to wear

each day. Single use face masks should be avoided. Students should have a plastic bag inside their school bag where the face mask can be stored when not in use. Headteacher's have a discretion to allow students to wear correctly fitted masks in all areas of the school and whilst we recognise the negative impact masks could have on high quality teaching and learning we have taken the decision that students may wear them in a classroom if this is their preference. Masks must be worn appropriately and failure to do so will be followed up with students and parents. This approach will be continually reviewed.

In an attempt to answer any questions, you may still have about the full reopening of The Derby High School to students we have provided a FAQ document on the website. Please see <http://www.thederbyhighschool.co.uk/returning-to-school/> for this. You can also find all the details I sent out at the end of term about the times and days your child/children are expected back into school.

It has never been more important for us to be able to communicate with our parents/carers. The best way to do this is via our SIMS parents 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 parents/ carers** 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
- 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



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Finally, in order to help us with the additional pressures we will face over lunchtime I would really appreciate it if parents could make use of the online payment system for school meals (<https://www.bury.gov.uk/index.aspx?articleid=11370>).

As always, thanks for your support during these challenging times.

I do hope you and your family have been able to have had some form of break over the summer and wish you all a happy 'Bank Holiday Weekend'.

Kind regards,

MS C H HUBERT

(Headteacher)



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