

# STUDENT FREQUENTLY ASKED QUESTIONS FOR SEPTEMBER

Dear Students

We are really looking forward to welcoming all of you back to school in September. We are very proud of how well you have worked at home, but we have missed you and are looking forward to seeing you all in the autumn term. We understand this will be a very different start to a new school year for everyone and some of you might be feeling a little nervous or anxious about returning to school. However, please be assured we have been working very hard to make your return to school as safe and smooth as possible. We know you must have lots of questions and maybe some worries, so we have tried to answer some of them here for you.

## **When do we come back to school?**

Monkwearmouth will be opening fully on Wednesday 2 September 2020 with staggered start and finish times for different year groups as set out below:

### *Wednesday 2 September Only*

Year 7 8.30am – 1pm (lunch will be available)  
Year 8 11am – 2pm (lunch will be available)  
Year 9 12pm – 2.30pm (lunch will be available)  
Year 10 12.30pm – 2.45pm (no lunch available)  
Year 11 1.00pm – 3.15pm (no lunch available)

### *Thursday 3 September Onwards*

Year 7 8.25am – 2.45pm  
Year 8 8.25am – 2.45pm  
Year 9 8.35am – 3.00pm  
Year 10 8.35am – 3.00pm  
Year 11 8.30am – 4.00pm

All students will have a 30 minute lunch each day and the school day will end at 2.00pm on a Friday.

## **Does the school look different?**

The school will look very familiar, however, we have made some changes to keep you and the staff as safe as we possibly can.

In response to COVID-19 we are limiting the amount students move around the school to enable us to keep consistent groups wherever possible. In Years 7, 8 and 9 you will be taught the majority of lessons in one classroom where teachers will come to your room to teach each subject (this won't include PE). In Years 10 & 11 because of different options you will move around the school more but will stay in your year group bubble. This is to reduce the risk of transmission by limiting the number of students in contact with each other.

A one way system will be in place all around school and this will be clearly marked.

## **What will happen at the start of the day?**

At the start of the day you will arrive to school punctually. You must be on time and not arrive too early or late. All students will enter via the main gates and proceed down the drive. Due to Years 10 and 11 starting at the same time Year 10 will enter using the usual student entrance and Year 11 will enter via main reception.

**What happens if I am late to school?**

You must arrive on time. If you are late you will have to wait in the holding area at main reception until a member of your house team comes to collect you and brings you in. Please remember punctuality is more important than ever now to keep everyone safe. Be prepared and organised so that you are not late for school.

**Can I get dropped off on the school site?**

No. All parents must drop students off at the top of the drive. Parents must not drive onto the school site unless there is a valid medical reason for this.

The gates at the top of the drive will be locked at the start and end of the school day to provide security to our school community.

**Should I sanitise my hands before entering school?**

Yes, as you enter school you should sanitise your hands using the antibacterial gel provided. There will also be hand sanitiser dispensers placed around the school and in each classroom. There will also be numerous opportunities throughout the day to wash your hands.

**Do I need to wear a facemask?**

You do not need to wear a mask in classrooms during lessons due to other safety measures that are in place. Where social distancing cannot be maintained for example walking around corridors and when in communal areas you will need to wear a face covering. Teachers will also be wearing a visor when they are on duty or in corridors.

If you have a medical condition that means you cannot wear a mask then you will be exempt and you will need a note in your planner.

You will also need to wear a face covering if you use the Metro or bus to travel to and from school.

Please remember not to touch the front of your face covering during use or when removing it. You will need a plastic sealable bag that you can place your face covering in when it is not being worn and wash or sanitise your hands when you have done this.

**Do I wear my normal uniform?**

Yes, you should wear your normal uniform. Make up must be kept to a minimum and therefore worn very discreetly. Nail varnish, acrylic nail extensions and false eyelashes are not permitted. Jewellery of any kind is also not to be worn except for a wrist watch and one pair of stud earrings. Hair must be no shorter than a number 1 blade and there should be no patterns, lines or symbols shaved into the hair. No non-natural hair colours are allowed for any student.

**Can I bring my bag and equipment to school?**

Yes, bags are allowed. It is still recommended that students limit the amount of equipment they bring into school each day, to essentials such as lunch boxes, coats, books and stationary but yes you will need to bring your own equipment. No footballs or other non-essential items should be brought into school.

For individual and very frequently used equipment, such as pens and pencils, it is recommended that staff and students have their own items and do not share. Therefore, it is important that you bring your own equipment in as is normally expected.

**Equipment List:**

- 2 pencils
- 2 pens
- 1 red pen
- 1 highlighter
- 1 ruler
- 1 rubber
- 1 pencil sharpener
- 1 calculator
- PE kit when necessary
- NO SCISSORS ALLOWED

You will not be able to borrow or share equipment with another student or member of staff so it is essential you bring in our own equipment. If you do forget, please speak to your tutor as we have equipment packs for sale in school for £1.

**Can I bring my bike to school?**

Yes, you can still bring your bike to school. In fact the Department for Education encourages students to cycle or walk to school, avoiding public transport as much as possible if it is safe to do so. You should ensure you have a suitable lock for your bike and place it in the bike store on the drive. Whilst the bike store is on the school grounds and locked during the school day, they are left entirely at the owners' risk and the school cannot accept responsibility for damage or theft.

**What should I do when I arrive in school?**

When you arrive in school you should wash or sanitise your hands. You should then make your way through the gates and line up with your year group in your tutor group and your tutor will be waiting for you and will take you to your classroom. When on break/lunch you must go to and stay in your allocated area/zone. You should not congregate in large groups on the yard, in corridors or any other areas of the school.

**Will I be able to get breakfast in school?**

There will be no breakfast club upon return to school in September. We will look at how we can make this available over the first few weeks of term.

**When are my break and lunch times?****Break Time**

Break times will be staggered for different year groups during period 2. You will not be able to buy food at breaktime at the moment but we will look to resume this service as soon as possible. Students will be able to bring a drink and snack for breaktime (no fizzy or energy drinks allowed). Please ensure you dispose of all litter in the bins provided.

**What will happen at lunchtime?**

We have reduced lunchtime to 30 minutes to avoid times where large numbers of students are together and each year group will have their own designated area which will be explained to you by your tutor on your first day.

For the first three weeks at least there will be a reduced food service available and you will be able to purchase a grab and go bag which will be available in your lunchtime area. You will still get a number of choices each day of what will be in your bag and we will arrange for you to order your bags up to a week in advance in tutor time.

You may also if you prefer bring a packed lunch.

We will look to move back to a normal food service as soon as possible.

You should sanitise/wash your hands before going into the dining hall and again after eating. Hand sanitiser stations are available outside the dining hall and handwashing facilities are also available.

### **When can I put money on for lunch?**

You cannot put money on in school using the payment machines. You must get a parent or carer to add money onto your account via the ParentPay app or website : <https://www.parentpay.com>

All students will be issued with a contactless card to pay for your lunch which will remove the need for you to use your finger to further keep you safe.

### **What will happen on the first day back?**

On the first day back you will have some time in your tutor group with your tutor. You will be given your new timetable and your tutor will explain the changes in school. There will be time to ask questions and discuss any concerns you might have.

### **What will happen at lesson change over?**

#### Key Stage 3

For the majority of lessons you will remain in your tutor class and teachers will come to you. If you are required to move around school for specialist lessons eg PE then you should follow instructions carefully to ensure all movement around school is safe and minimising students in different groups mixing.

#### Key Stage 4

You will be dismissed as usual by your class teacher. You should follow instructions carefully as you may be asked to line up outside of the classroom to be told to wait before moving to avoid congestion in the corridors.

Teachers and other staff will move freely between classes and year groups.

### **Will I have a different teacher for different lessons?**

Yes. The plan we have in place will enable us deliver the full range of curriculum subjects and for you to receive specialist teaching.

### **Will I have PE lessons?**

Yes, PE lessons will take place. You will be kept in consistent groups and sports equipment will be thoroughly cleaned between each use by different individual groups and contact sports will be avoided. There will be no swimming lessons at least for the first term.

Outdoor sports will be prioritised where possible, and large indoor spaces used where it is not for example the sports hall and gym.

When you have a PE lesson you will line up at the allocated time of your lesson, your PE teacher will come and pick you up for your lesson.

On the days you have a PE lesson you will need to get changed into your PE kit.

### **What will happen at the end of the school day?**

Your teacher will dismiss you and each year group will leave via the main gates. You should make your way out of school calmly and sensibly and staff will be on duty to ensure this. Please do not congregate in groups after school and go straight home.

**Will I be able to get picked up from school?**

Yes, you can get picked up but not from on the school site for safety reasons. Please be aware this is a very busy time of the day. Allow enough time for traffic and congestion and help the flow of traffic by not prolonging the pickup.

**When will the school be cleaned?**

Enhanced cleaning schedules are in place and the school will be thoroughly cleaned before and after school. Dining halls will be cleaned during and after each sitting and before the next year group enter. The school will close to staff at 4.30pm in order to allow the cleaning team to clean the school thoroughly daily. Cleaning materials such as antibacterial wipes and tissues etc will also be available in each classroom to ensure areas can be kept clean during the day. The school day will end at 2pm on a Friday to enable increased cleaning.

**Is attendance still important?**

Yes, attendance is **very** important.

Missing out on more time in the classroom risks you falling behind. Those with overall higher overall absence tend to achieve less well. School attendance will therefore be mandatory again from September and the usual rules will apply including:

- Parents' duty to secure that their child attends regularly at school
- Schools' responsibilities to record attendance and follow up absence
- The availability to issue sanctions, including fixed penalty notices in line with Local Authorities' codes of conduct.

**What should I do if I am shielding or self-isolating?**

If you are unable to attend school because you are complying with clinical and/or public health advice, we will be able to immediately offer you access to remote education. We will monitor your engagement with remote education via ClassCharts.

Where you are not able to attend school as your parents/carers are following clinical and/or public health advice, absence will not be penalised.

**Visitors to the school**

There can be no visitors to school (including parents/carers) that do not have a pre-arranged appointment. This is for the safety of all staff, students and visitors.

**Will we still use ClassCharts?**

Yes, we will plan to still use ClassCharts to enhance learning at home and build on the learning in school.

It is going to be an important tool for teachers to use to help you to fill in any gaps that have been identified in your learning over the next few months. We may also look to introduce other remote learning methods including Microsoft Teams.