July 2020

Dear Parents and Carers,

2020 has certainly been a landmark year. Despite the obvious challenges that we have faced, I can say with great confidence that there is much to be proud of in the way that our school community have faced every obstacle that has been presented. I am humbled and proud to be part of such a thriving school community.

September 2020 will bring many ‘new normals’ in terms of running the school, yet what will remain is our ambition for excellence in all we do. Our school improvement priority for the coming year is to create a strong **sense of privilege for all students at Sandhill View**. To do this we will:

1. Challenge and support every learner in every lesson to reach their highest expectations
2. Continue to develop positive relationships and high standards of behaviour
3. Relentlessly focus on developing students’ oral, reading and writing skills

These priorities are even more important after over 100 days without a formal education. Home schooling is not easy and we are grateful and proud of all students, parents and carers who have been resilient, creative and who have turned home learning into a varied and enjoyable experience.

The following pages contain important dates and information about our plans over the summer and set out our plans for wider reopening in September.

**Health and Safety**

Our Risk Assessment documents are extensive, available upon request and subject to continual review. They cover all points that you would expect to ensure high levels of safety such as: hand sanitiser dispensers in every room; social distancing tape on corridors; screens in offices; desks facing the front; one way systems; enhanced digital signage; free standing signage; grouping of students into bubbles; creating separate zones for classes; staggered lunch times; enhanced cleaning in all high use areas and PPE for first aid.

**Year 11 Results Day - 20th August 2020**

Year 11 students may collect their GCSE results from school by appointment only, in order to allow for effective social distancing. They will be able to enter school at the following times:

|  |  |
| --- | --- |
| Surname ending | Appointment time |
| A - I | 9.00 |
| J - Q | 9.30 |
| R - Z | 10.00 |

Teaching and support staff will be available to meet students. There will also be an opportunity for Sandhill View students to enrol onto the 6th form provision at Southmoor.

Any results not collected in person will be posted to the home address we have on the school system. If you have moved home since lockdown started, you will need to inform us of your new address.

**What will happen in September?**

School reopens from 2nd September and students will be welcomed back on a staggered basis, to allow for careful re-integration and build-up of confidence with the new systems. Please note the following dates for return:

|  |  |  |
| --- | --- | --- |
| Monday 30th August | Bank Holiday Monday | School closed to all |
| Tuesday 1st September | Inset day for staff | School closed to students |
| Wednesday 2nd September | Year 7 and 11 | Phased Induction process |
| Thursday 3rd September | Year 7, 10 and 11 |
| Friday 4th September | Year 7,8,9 10 and 11 |

During the induction process, staff will explain the safety measures which have been put in place to protect all, they will also use their expertise to assess the learning needs of students. We understand that the lockdown experience has been different for everyone and that whilst some students are excited to return to school, others may have high levels of anxiety. We will make sure everyone is well catered for and looked after.

During the induction process students will be assigned to ‘bubbles’, each bubble will be largely confined to one ‘zone’ within the school, and for entry/exit/outdoor social spaces. Lunchtimes will be staggered to allow for enhanced cleaning between sittings, details are shown below:

|  |  |  |  |  |
| --- | --- | --- | --- | --- |
|  | **Consisting of students from Years** | **Outside social space** | **Teaching Zone** | **Lunch time** |
| **Bubble 1** | 7 & 8 | Y7 Yard | Zone 1: Science classrooms | 12.30 -1.10 |
| **Bubble 2** | 8 & 9 | Year 8 & 9 Yard | Zone 2: Humanities and languages classrooms | 12-12.40 |
| **Bubble 3** | 10 & 11 | Year 11 Yard | Zone 3: English and maths classrooms | 1.00-1.40 |

The school day will start and end at the usual times for all; students must be on their yard at **8.25**, in class to be registered at 8.30. School ends at 3.35. Students must remain in their allocated social space at all times.

From Monday 7th September, all students will begin daily timetable within our planned ‘Recovery Curriculum’ which will include a heightened focus on core literacy skills and key concepts that were vital to the previous term’s learning. This will ensure that new learning builds on previous sequences of learning.

To support our Recovery Curriculum parents and carers should note the following important key points:

|  |  |
| --- | --- |
| **What do parents need to do?** | **Why?** |
| Make sure your child wears their full uniform all at all times. | Students are corrected if they are not in uniform and they  often resent this. We want to welcome them back with a focus on supporting learning and well-being. |
| Make sure your child has all required equipment in a  bag (pencil case with blue, black and green pens,  pencil, ruler, rubber and pencil sharpener). | Not having the correct equipment slows down that start of  lessons and students are embarrassed if they have to ask.  Borrowing equipment leads to an increased risk of infection transmission. |
| Students should expect to receive an hour of  homework per day. | Students need time to reflect on what has been learned during  the day. Completing homework every day strengthens the  learning that has been done in school and allows students to  make faster progress. |
| The only drink allowed in lessons is water (refillable  bottles may be topped up during the day if needed). | Energy drinks are banned from school as they can prevent students from being able to concentrate. They will be  confiscated and disposed of if brought into school. |

**Our Contingency plans:**

Whilst we have paid close attention to all government health and safety guidance in terms of our planning and preparation, we recognise that if the local or national situation changes, we must respond quickly. This may be another full lock down, or it may be that increased social distancing measures are required. We have contingency plans for both scenarios. If we have to reduce to 50% of the school capacity, we will operate a two-weekly timetable. Our Subject Leaders have been working on preparing new home learning resources and have been trained to use Microsoft Teams to deliver lessons online, should either situation arise in the future. The full curriculum will be delivered regardless of the changing local and national picture.

**Important Information to support use of ICT at home**

All Sandhill View students can get free access the full Microsoft Office 365 suite, as long as they have a device to work from. Go to <https://www.microsoft.com/en-us/education/products/office/default.aspx> then use their school email address and password to get access.

**Home/school contact**

We are asking ALL parents to download the MyEd app. [<https://www.myedschoolapp.com/> ] from the App Store or Google play.

In recent months we have been using texts because not everyone has downloaded it yet, BUT we have to pay for texts; our last bill for texts was over £15,000! We understand that this has been necessary in recent times, but would much prefer to spend this money on learning resources and opportunities for your child. Please help us spread the word so we can direct every penny to your child’s education.

Thank you again for your support, everyone at Sandhill View sends our best wishes to you, your child and your loved ones, and we hope you have a well-earned summer break. We are REALLY looking forward to welcoming your children to Sandhill View in September!

Yours sincerely

Mrs J Maw

Headteacher