26th August 2020

Dear Parent/Carers

September Return to School

I hope you and your family have had a safe and enjoyable summer. We are looking forward to welcoming all of our students to a full return to school next week. The following pages provide reminders of key information, requirements and hopefully plenty of reassurance that whilst your child's return to school will see many changes, it will be safe, well-organised and highly conducive to learning.

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 31st 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 School start and finish times are as normal (8.30-3.35)
Thursday 3rd September	Year 7, 10 and 11	
Friday 4th September	Year 7,8,9 10 and 11	

It is essential that all parents and carers read and adhere to the following information:

Our first, most important control, is to **prevent** the virus from being brought onto the school site, the second control is to **limit the risk** of possible transmission on site and the third is to **respond quickly and effectively** in the event of a known case. Our full risk assessment can be found on the school website and any questions can be raised by emailing info@sandhillview.com or by contacting your child's head of year.

At the time of writing, Sunderland has 6 cases of Covid-19 per hundred thousand people. We regularly monitor the local and national situation and swift updates will be put in place to respond to any heightened risk.

Key question	Key information
Does my child have to attend school?	**Yes**. All students are expected to attend school as usual. If your child has a medical condition you must contact their head of year to discuss personalised arrangements.
What **must** parents do to prevent the virus being brought into school?	Students must **not** attend school if they, or anyone in their household, have **any of the following** symptoms or if they have tested positive for Covid-19 in the last 10 days. DO NOT send your child to school if they have any of the following symptoms: • A high temperature • A new and persistent cough • Loss of sense of taste or smell
What **must** parents/carers do if their child has symptoms?	• Self-isolate your child immediately • Contact school to let us know • Get your child tested – you must do this at the earliest opportunity after developing symptoms. To book a test online go to https://www.nhs.uk/ask-for-a-coronavirus-test, or call 119 and book over the phone • Contact school as soon as you know the test result (positive or negative) as we may have to consult Public Health England to 'isolate' a bubble or the school
How will my child learn if they have to self-isolate (but are otherwise well)?	Work will be set via Show My Homework (now known as Satchel One). There will be various ways to complete work depending on the level of home access to ICT. Teachers can be contacted via email during working hours (8.30-3.35) and will aim to reply to any contact within 24 hours of receipt.
What **must** parents /carers do to reduce risk of transmission in school?	Remind your child they should be: • **Washing their hands** for 20 seconds regularly – this is more effective than using hand sanitiser and is one the best ways to protect themselves • Using **hand sanitiser** (at least 60% alcohol) if soap and water aren't available • Staying **2m apart** where possible • Trying **not to touch their face** (mouth, nose, eyes) with their hands • Using a **tissue** if they cough or sneeze, then bin it and wash their hands. If they don't have a tissue

	• they should use the crook of their arm. Catch it, Bin it, Kill it! • Students must **bring their own essential school equipment** each day. Sharing equipment increases a transmission risk. • Year 11s - remember to bring everything you were given at the end of year 10, including your completed mock exams! • Parents - use the **online payment** system to pay for lunches
What additional measures are happening in school?	• Students are assigned to **bubbles** • **Iron on badges**, are enclosed, to identify students as year groups/bubbles • Bubbles assigned to **zones** with their own **entrance points** and **toilets** • Wall mounted **hand sanitisers** in every classroom and boxes of tissues to promote 'Catch it, Bin it, Kill it!' • **Separate breakfast and breaktime areas,** each with access to a separate vending machine/snack provision • **Staggered lunchtime**s for bubbles • **One-way systems** in place • All seating **facing one direction,** where possible, keeping pupils 1m apart • Seating plans set across a number of lessons, to reduce the number of close contacts • **Enhanced cleaning** for touch points and high use areas around the school building • Timetables to **minimise movement** between lessons • Teachers to reinforce all the above safety measures as part of the new routines
Are there any changes to uniform?	• All pupils are expected to attend in the usual **full school uniform** including **school blazer** and new, **iron on year group badge.**
Do students have to wear face masks?	There has been much recent debate about the use of **face masks.** We have tracked evidence based updates all summer – wearing a face mask can provide an effective safety precaution, however there is disagreement about whether this benefit is outweighed by an impact on learning. There is no evidence base for this yet. As a school, we believe that children learn best if they feel safe, with this in mind, we are happy to allow students to wear a face mask in class if it reassures them, as long as this is not getting in the way of their own or other students' learning. From September: • All students must **bring a face mask** to school with them as part of their essential equipment. • Wearing a face mask is not a requirement in classrooms, but is **advisable** to wear them in all corridors and communal areas. • In the event of a **local lock down**, wearing face masks in corridors and communal areas will become **compulsory**. • This may change as national guidance is updated. • If your child has a medical condition that means they cannot wear a face mask, you **must** contact the SENDCO so that we can complete a care plan.
How should students travel to school?	• Where possible students should walk to school, maintaining social distances from anyone not in their bubble. • If pupils need to use public transport then they must follow the guidance for wearing a mask and to social distance. • Parents/cares are no longer able to enter the school site to drop off/collect students.
How do I stay up to date with all messages from school?	• Download the free MyEd App. https://www.myedschoolapp.com/ • It is free to send and receive messages to school using this App.

Effective management of the health, well-being and safety of all staff and students is not a one-person job, it is about making sure that as a community we have a strong sense of social responsibility for everyone.

We are grateful for the positive feedback we have received since the beginning of lock-down and we hope to continue to work closely with everyone so that we can continue providing the highest standard of learning in the safest possible setting. We look forward to welcoming your child to school new week.

Yours sincerely,

Mrs Maw
Headteacher