

16 July 2020

Dear Parent / Carer

I hope this letter finds you well as we come to the end of an academic year like no other. We are delighted that a fair degree of normality is set to return in September in that we are able to welcome back all students across all year groups, and very much look forward to seeing your son or daughter then.

Arrangements for September

The annex to this letter provides you with key details about what the full return in September will look like from a safety and logistical standpoint, in light of the Government's guidance to schools on full opening. A phased return is planned, as per the details below. This is not dissimilar to our usual arrangements at the start of a new school year, but this year it is particularly necessary in order to build student and staff familiarity with new arrangements that need to be in place and to give confidence to parents and carers that you can send your son or daughter in safely.

Start days for the different year groups are:

Wednesday 2 September: **Year 9** return

Thursday 3 September: **Year 11** return, along with year 9

Friday 4 September: **Years 10, 12 and 13** return, along with years 9 and 11,
(**year 12** in from lunchtime)

I shall write to you again towards the end of August with more details of these days, specific timings and of the safety measures that will be in place, including arrangements for those getting school transport. Please note: Miss Innes wrote to new year 13s about one-to-one sessions that were planned to take place with teachers as a follow on to the one-to-one Teams meetings that took place this half term. These will now happen in lessons with teachers in September, rather than online.

Staffing

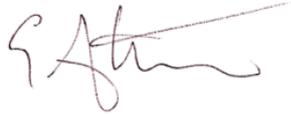
As is invariably the case at this time of year, we bid farewell to colleagues moving on to pastures new. This year sees the departure of Mr Hoile, Mr Scaife, Ms Alpin, Ms Hunt and Mr Shinner. We thank each of them for their contributions to life at QEHS and wish them well for the future.

Looking ahead to next year, I am very pleased to tell you that we have appointed Mr Neil Seaton to the post of Head of School at QE. Mr Seaton, currently a deputy headteacher at George Heriot's School in Edinburgh, graduated in History and Politics from the University of Edinburgh before qualifying as a teacher. He has a passion for inclusion of all students and led his current school to be a UNICEF rights-respecting school. He was attracted by our ethos and the exciting opportunities of the new build. Mr Seaton, who was delighted to accept the post, will join us in January.

In other developments, I am pleased to report that Mrs Innes has been appointed Acting Deputy Headteacher from September and Ms Edgar appointed as Pastoral Leader for Year 10, replacing Ms Curry who takes up post as a senior leader at the middle school.

As mentioned, I shall write to you again towards the end of August. In the meantime, I hope all is well with you and your loved ones and I wish you and them an enjoyable and safe summer.

Yours faithfully

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'G. Atkins', with a long horizontal stroke extending to the right.

Graeme Atkins
Executive Headteacher

ANNEX 1

Queen Elizabeth High School September 2020 - Full Opening

Key features

We will:

- Have all students back
- Operate our full timetable ensuring all students get full teaching time
- Adhere to the Government [guidance](#), complying with the seven elements of the [system of controls](#)
- Manage students in year group bubbles in accordance with the guidance
- Make changes to arrival times and mustering points to ensure bubbles are separate but without adverse impact on those using school transport
- Direct students to use specific routes and entry/exit points to avoid congestion
- Stagger break and lunch times to avoid congestion and bubble mixing – see timetable of school day below
- Stagger departure times but without adverse impact on those using school transport – see timetable of school day
- Adjust classrooms layouts where necessary to align with the guidance on seating arrangements
- Provide additional cleaning in accordance with the guidance
- Provide additional handwashing facilities at key entry points
- Ensure that student hand cleaning occurs via sanitisers in every classroom and at other key points

Compromises required to make full return work

To make full return work within the guidance, there are certain compromises required, which are:

- One y9 lesson and one y10 lesson will be split each day, either side of a break or lunch. In normal circumstances this would not be ideal. However, in order to achieve the bigger prize of full return/full curriculum/full teaching time, whilst adhering to the public health guidance, it is a relatively small, manageable price to pay.
- To fit in the split lunches in a way that works in terms of various other requirements, lunch time for each year group will reduce to 30 minutes. Again, this is not ideal in that it reduces students' socialising time, but is a necessary adjustment that allows for other critical requirements to be met. Lunch will be later for students in years 11 and 12 than would ordinarily be the case. We will make sure they are aware of this and will enable them to get food at break time.
- To enable a staggered departure to avoid congestion moving through the building, and as a result of the shorter lunch period, p5 will end for students in years 9, 10 and 12 at 3.10pm. Those getting school transport will congregate in their bubbles in a designated area until pick-up. We will add 10 minutes onto p5 for years 11 and 13 (it will finish for these year groups at 3.20pm as it does now, but given the shorter lunchtime, this will mean 10 minutes more than for years 9, 10 and 12).

Timetable/Schedule of the day

	08:50	09:00	09:10	09:20	09:30	09:40	09:50	10:00	10:10	10:20	10:30	10:40	10:50	11:00	11:10	11:20	11:30	11:40	11:50	12:00	12:10	12:20	12:30	12:40	12:50	13:00	13:10	13:20	13:30	13:40	13:50	14:00	14:10	14:20	14:30	14:40	14:50	15:00	15:10	15:20					
9	Reg			P1			P2	Break		P2						P3				Lunch									P4																
10	Reg			P1			Break			P2										P3								P4																	
11	Reg			P1						P2					Break					P3								P4																	
12				P1			Break			P2										P3								Lunch																	
13				P1						P2					Break					P3								P4																	
																																													Departure

Students in Years 12 and 13 to arrive by 9.15am ready for P1 at 9.20am (those arriving by bus can be based in the sixth form area or the LRC until P1 starts)

Phased return

A phased return will be necessary to build student and staff familiarity with the new arrangements and to give confidence to parents that they can send their children in safely.

Tuesday 1 September – Staff training day

Wednesday 2 September – Year 9 return

Thursday 3 September – Year 11 return, along with year 9

Friday 4 September – Years 10 and 13 return, along with years 9 and 11, with year 12 in pm.

More details

We will write to parents in late August to confirm these arrangements and to clarify any other necessary detail. Please note, a full planning document and associated risk assessment have been prepared, covering all aspects of the Government's guidance on full opening.