



Chestnut Grove Academy

HEADTEACHER: Mr. Christian Kingsley MA MSc NPQH

28 August 2020

Dear Families,

We are delighted to be welcoming your child back to school in September. Since receiving the Government guidelines for a total return to school, we have been working hard to put in place all the appropriate measures and we are confident that we are ready for a full and safe return to school. The Government has summarised its advice for parents and carers about schools reopening and we encourage all families to read this. For more information on the Government guidelines please click [here](#).

To ease the return, we will be welcoming different year groups on different days so that they are able to familiarise themselves with the new routines and expectations in place to keep the school community safe and focused on learning. Please click [here](#) to access the summary of the **Return to School Induction Timetable for all year groups (7-13)**. This will tell you the date, location and time at which students in different year groups will need to arrive.

The school day

Naturally, we are having to make significant changes to the school environment, which will have some impact on the daily routines that students are used to experiencing in school. It is important that students understand the changes that they will experience in September, and the measures that we are taking to ensure that students are safe in school.

Year groups will be allocated a **10 minute** window to arrive at their allocated entrance either on **Hearnville Road (turnstile entrance)** or **Chestnut Grove (main entrance)** as indicated on the return to school induction timetable. This is to provide a staggered start to the day and reduce interactions between year groups. Students will not be allowed on site prior to this time, so it will be essential for all students to arrive at school punctually. When students arrive at the gate they will be instructed to clean their hands with hand sanitiser. Hand sanitiser will also be provided in all classrooms and communal areas and students are expected to use this at all lesson changeovers, before and after eating and before leaving the school site.

Tutor groups will be registered and will then spend their school day in year group bubbles in one zone of the school. To avoid movement and risk of contamination, students will be taught in their zone, with subject teachers travelling around the site to teach them. Government advice is that staff should try to socially distance within 2 metres and so they will have to work in a different way than they are used to, spending most of their time at the front of the class rather than circulating.

Please click [here](#) for your child's Year group weekly timetable. Students will receive their individual timetables on their first induction day. Students in different year groups will be dismissed at different times at the end of the day from the gate they arrived at. It is important students leave the site promptly and safely and when going home only mix with students in different year group bubbles if it is possible to socially distance. From September, there will be no extracurricular clubs being offered after school. This will be reviewed at October half term and we will communicate any changes to all parents after this date.

Break and lunch:

Break and lunch times will be staggered so that all students get time to have a break from their lessons and enjoy the outside safely. At lunch time there will be a choice of individually wrapped items such as salads, paninis, wraps, pasta, jacket potatoes, pizza and sandwiches. We will also serve a wrapped pudding and drinks. **There will be no food available at break time**, so students should bring a healthy snack from home if needed. Students should also bring their own water bottles.

Equipment and Uniform:

Students will be expected to wear **full school uniform** in Year 7-11. There will be no changing facilities on site, and so students will be **expected to come to school wearing their full Chestnut Grove PE kit on days that they have PE on their timetable**. Failure to arrive at school in the correct uniform will result in parents being contacted and students being sent home to change.

We have been advised that students should not borrow or share equipment. Therefore, all students **must be fully equipped** with black pens, pencils, a rubber, ruler, pencil sharpener, scientific Casio calculator, glue, safety scissors and colouring pens/pencils.

The school library has been turned into a secondary canteen space in order to reduce contact between students at lunch time. It will therefore be closed until further notice but students will have access to an extensive online library. All students **must bring a reading book in every day**. As there are restrictions on students sharing equipment, being ready and prepared for learning is key to a successful return to school. As usual, students will be given a school planner on their first day and **mobile phones should be switched off and in the school bag at all times** so they do not affect learning. If mobile phone are used or affect learning they will be confiscated and placed in the safe in reception. They can be collected by parents/carers after 24 hours.

Face masks:

In order to reduce the risk of the spread of COVID 19 and following the World Health Organisation's recent advice, it will be **compulsory for students and staff to wear a face mask (NOT face coverings) in all communal areas where it is difficult to be able to maintain social distancing e.g. on corridors and when entering and exiting the school site**. Students have the option to wear a face mask at all other times in school if they wish to. Face masks should safely cover the nose and mouth. **Parents must provide their child with a face mask** for use in school and ensure they also **carry spare face masks** at all times. Parents can buy reusable or single-use face masks for their child. Face masks are intended to protect others, not the wearer, against the spread of infection because they cover the nose and mouth, which are the main confirmed sources of transmission of virus that causes coronavirus infection (COVID-19). Students without a face mask will be asked to go to reception, parents/carers will be contacted and the student may be sent home to collect their face mask to ensure the safety of our school community. Students will also have the option of purchasing a disposable face mask from reception for £1. For a summary of information about the wearing of face masks please click [here](#).

As a result of the changes we will be introducing from September we have updated our Behaviour for Learning policy and the key changes have been added to a revised Home School Agreement. **All parents/students need to click [here](#) and read and agree to the Home School Agreement changes electronically**. A **separate form should be completed for each of your children** who attends Chestnut Grove Academy. Please can this be completed by **Thursday 3rd September 2020**.

We are confident that by implementing these key changes we will be able to help keep everyone safe and focused on their learning.

I look forward to seeing your children in September and you all over the coming year.

Stay safe, and thank you once again for your unwavering support.

Yours faithfully,



Christian Kingsley
Headteacher
Chestnut Grove – A Creative Learning Community
28 August 2020

