



July 2020

Dear Parent,

Re: End of the Summer Term 2020 and Dates for your Diary 2020-2021

I have been in teaching for over 27 years and I do not recall an academic year being so brutally concluded in the way this year has. The great news is that the government has been clear in its direction that all schools are expected to fully return in September and myself and the senior team have been wading through 42 pages of guidance to prepare for this.

It is important to manage expectations of parents and students. In September, it will not be business as usual, and the development of year group bubbles and their muster areas will be the norm until January 2021. I do believe that our approach, with a slightly delayed start to the school year in September, means that we can offer a full curriculum with specialised teachers in specialised areas, much more efficiently than a primary bubble model where students are housed in one classroom all day being taught by their tutor for all subjects. As we approach September, I will write to you again with details on how our model will work. So, before we break for the summer I would like to share the very real positives that I have seen since we closed in March:

- In a matter of days, we moved our entire curriculum online with You Tube videos, SAM Learning, Google Classroom, GCSE Pod and positive interactions with students.
- We are offering a three week summer school for our current Year 10s, and sign up has been very positive.
- We have issued over 100 school laptops to support our students.
- We have been open every day, including holidays, for our key worker children, SEN and vulnerable students.
- Teachers and staff have been in over the holidays volunteering, unpaid.
- We have supported over 80 families a week with quality food parcels.
- We are planning some fun activities for our students and we have plans for an assault course and a new polymeric surface for our MUGA, which will be a bespoke netball area.
- We have had most of our Year 6s in school for a transition day, the only school to do so.
- We will have invited all students, from Year 7 to Year 10, to meet their tutors and offer that all important face to face support.
- And for me as the Headteacher, the sheer pride I have in our school community and the surrounding areas for taking the advice so seriously and just being the best group of parents I have ever worked with. Your emails of encouragement and suggestions have been warmly welcomed. Thank you so very much on behalf of all our teachers and support staff.

End of term arrangements

Thursday 16th July 2020: Last day for Year 10 and key worker students.

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New term arrangements

Thursday 3rd September 2020: **INSET day** (school closed to all students).

Friday 4th September 2020: **INSET day** (school closed to all students).

On the students' first day there will be some physical activities arranged so students will need to attend their first day only in PE kit.

Monday 7th September 2020: **Year 7 return** at 08:20-08:40am. Staff will be on hand to direct students to their muster area.

Tuesday 8th September 2020: **Year 11 return** (along with Year 7).
Year 7 should arrive at 08:20am
Year 11 should arrive at 08:45am

Wednesday 9th September 2020: **Year 8 return** (along with Years 7 and 11).
Year 7 should arrive at 08:20am
Year 8 should arrive at 08:40am
Year 11 should arrive at 09:00am and go straight to Period 1.

Thursday 10th September 2020: **Year 9 return** (along with Years 7 and 11)
Year 7 should arrive at 08:20am
Year 9 should arrive at 08:40am
Year 11 should arrive at 09:00am and go straight to Period 1.

Friday 11th September 2020: **Year 10 return** (along with Years 7 and 11)
Year 7 should arrive at 08:20am
Year 10 should arrive at 08:40am
Year 11 should arrive at 09:00am and go straight to Period 1.

Members of staff will be on hand to encourage and support students to go to their muster areas.

Monday 14th September 2020: **All students return**
Year 7 to arrive at 8:20am
Year 8 to arrive at 8:30am
Year 9 to arrive at 8:40am
Year 10 to arrive at 8:50am
Year 11 to arrive at 9:00am

More details to follow on this in September. Staff will also be on hand to support students to maintain their year group bubbles and encourage them to move to their muster areas.

We will ensure this information is on our website and we will send a text message out to remind you.

Expectations and behaviour

Redbridge Community School will operate as normally as possible from September, under the guidance issued by the Department for Education, until we are informed that it is business as usual. COVID 19 is still a risk and predominately a risk to our staff. The school has therefore updated its Behaviour Policy to reflect this. Any inappropriate behaviour or the breaking of guidelines that will be issued to all students is likely to result in a sanction and parents will be expected to pick them up from school. We do hope, however, that the vast majority of students will be pleased to be back, seeing their friends and enjoying school life. We are not there just yet with our collective control of the virus, though figures in Southampton are very low.

The School Office

The office area will be closed to all students and teaching staff - this means that nothing can be collected from this area. During this time we will not be able to pass on any messages to students about collections, lunches etc. Therefore students need to be very organised before they come into school each day.

Visitors to the school

No visitors will be allowed on site without a prearranged appointment with a member of staff. Anyone turning up to school without an appointment will be turned away.

If you have an appointment with the school, this will be confirmed to you and on arrival at the school you will be asked for full contact details so that we can contact you as part of our track and trace system.

First Aid and medical care

The main first aid room will be closed to students at the start of the term as this can only be accessed through the main office. All emergencies will be dealt with by our first aiders and any students stating that they feel unwell will be moved to a designated first aid area and will need to be collected straight away.

Dates for your diary

INSET Days 2020 – 2021

In response to parental request here are our 2020 - 2021 INSET days:

Thursday 3rd September 2020

Friday 4th September 2020

Friday 4th December 2020

12th February 2021

11th June 2021

Contact details, Data Collection Form and Medical Permission Slip

Please can you ensure that all contact details, medical permission forms, data collection sheets and offsite forms have been updated and returned for September 2020. Also, if you haven't already done so, please sign up to Parent Mail. This is how we now send out all letter correspondence.

Have a great summer and we look forward to seeing you ready and refreshed in a very different September.

Yours sincerely



Mr J S Ashley
Headteacher

