

Reopening Plan

Overview for Parents / Carers

Introduction

Based upon the Minister for Wales' recent announcement, we now aim to reopen school in a limited fashion on Monday 29th June, for a four week period, in order to 'touch base' with students in Years 7, 8, 9, 10 and 12.

The main purpose of our sessions with students will be:-

- to maintain a pastoral overview
- to assist further with matters of wellbeing
- to help them to prepare as best we can for their continued education in the coming months
- to glean some useful information from students about the kind of blended learning which helps them work from home most effectively in order to inform our continued curriculum planning

Please find below a general overview of some of the key measures we are taking to ensure we successfully welcome back those students whose families feel it is the right time for their children to return, albeit on a very limited basis, to the school premises.

As you will doubtless be aware, we experience direction change on a regular basis at present as we are guided by national and local advisory bodies and announcements. We do, however, feel that it is important for all parents / carers to understand the measures we are seeking to put in place in order to demonstrate clearly that our priority is the safety and wellbeing of students and staff.

This document is in very nature a summary of key messages and should not be seen as exhaustive. It is underpinned by a series of risk assessments and grounded in a great deal of specialist advice and guidance, but we acknowledge that it may change at short notice nevertheless. Our risk assessments will be signed off by Flintshire LA when deemed fit for purpose.

Overview of Plan

At present we would see the roll out of the following model for weeks one and two, followed by an in depth review, which could then lead to a slightly updated model for weeks three and four:-

- School to be open to students for morning session only four days per week
- Afternoon sessions would be for staff preparation and school cleaning time
- Sessions would be in tutor groups
- Sessions would be as a block (a half day session), therefore students would remain in the same room throughout their session, apart from during a supervised break time, although we may use appropriate outdoor spaces at times also should weather permit
- Teachers would remain with their allocated group throughout the session, with certain staff also visiting different rooms to speak to students at times
- Student toilet visits would be scheduled as necessary, and staff would be seated outside the toilet rooms in order to ensure distancing can be maintained
- One day per week would see the school deep-cleaned, with no sessions for students. Based upon scientific advice, this would be on a Monday.

Schedule

Week 1 – all sessions would be with the student’s Group Tutor and would last 3 hours in total

Monday - staff preparations and deep clean.

Tuesday - 1st quarter ‘bubbles’ of every tutor group from Years 7 & 8

Wednesday - 1st quarter ‘bubbles’ of every tutor group from Years 9 & 10. Year 12 students may be in slightly larger groups.

Thursday - 2nd quarter ‘bubbles’ of every tutor group from Years 7 & 8

Fri day- 2nd quarter ‘bubbles’ of every tutor group from Years 9 & 10. Year 12 students may be in slightly larger groups.

Week 2 – all sessions would be with the student’s Group Tutor and would last 3 hours in total

Monday - staff preparations and deep clean.

Tuesday - 3rd quarter ‘bubbles’ of every tutor group from Years 7 & 8

Wednesday - 3rd quarter 'bubbles' of every tutor group from Years 9 & 10. Year 12 students may be in slightly larger groups.

Thursday - 4th quarter 'bubbles' of every tutor group from Years 7 & 8

Friday - 4th quarter 'bubbles' of every tutor group from Years 9 & 10. Year 12 students may be in slightly larger groups.

It is likely that we would then repeat this model for last 2 weeks of term again, and we will notify you of this after an in depth review of provision and discussion of any issues arising.

Example Day

- Students (whose parents / carers are comfortable with return to school) arrive at school, naturally staggered, from 8.40am to 9am
- Staff meet students from cars / buses and direct all to sign-in stations in the sports hall with 2m queueing lines clearly marked.
- Students sign in, receive key information, confirm no sign of any illness, and sanitise hands.
- Students follow one way system to allocated room.
- Staff on corridors to ensure observance of one way system.
- Students have pastoral input, covering relevant themes for these times
- Students have staggered breaks, supervised by staff teams in designated areas, and should not come into contact with other groups of students in other 'bubbles'
- Students should bring their own pre-filled water bottles and a mid-morning snack as there will be no canteen provision, but a pre-packed snack and bottle of water will also be provided for each student during the morning by the school
- Students are collected by car where possible, with as few as possible on buses, at midday. Students who are able to walk to and from school must adhere to social distancing rules and go to the sports hall immediately on arrival
- Cars to come to the front of school and any buses/taxis provided by school transport to be on the rear yard

Further General Health and Safety Guidance

The health and safety of all staff and students will remain our first priority at all times. We would seek to ensure the following until such time as we are advised it is safe and right to do otherwise:-

- Upon provision of further national information for staff testing, all staff would be expected to have a test for the virus. We await further clarification of the detail of this
- Students who show any sign of illness at all **MUST NOT** be sent to school. We will check this is the case upon arrival to school at sign-in stations in the sports hall. If a student is suspected of falling ill while in school, they will be sent to the main hall immediately, and checked by a qualified first-aider wearing PPE as appropriate. If clearly ill these students will be sent home as soon as they can be collected. In an emergency we would dial 999 as is our practice.
- Students may need additional support to help them with their own reintegration and personal circumstances and concerns. We will seek to ensure that appropriate members of staff are available to talk with students whenever necessary, and will suggest helpful websites and further specialist professional organisations which should be able to assist also if useful (see appendix below for some of these).
- All families will be required to return a new Home-School Agreement via a survey link which has a central focus on the welfare of all on the school premises
- Strict and rigorous hand-washing/sanitising regimes will be in place for all in the building
- Signage will be clear and obvious, and will help enforce social distancing for all. Everyone present on the school campus must comply with appropriate social distancing measures
- Students should bring their own pencil cases and useful, but not extensive, contents which is not to be shared
- Students who persistently struggle to maintain social distance or behave poorly will, in keeping with our standard Behaviour Policy, be removed from classes, and contact will be made with home. We will ask parents / carers of persistent offenders to collect their son / daughter from school during the session.
- Students will be expected to wear standard school uniform unless told otherwise which should be freshly washed for each session attended
- We intend to use only our larger rooms for session delivery
- Essential cleaning supplies will be available in all rooms in use should staff choose to wipe down anything at any time (although rooms will be thoroughly cleaned each day by our cleaning team)
- Windows will be open if safe and appropriate and supervised time outside will be a feature of each session, weather permitting
- All used rooms will be cleaned every day, and a deeper clean will occur once per week
- No unexpected visitors will be allowed to enter the main school
- Appointments need to be made well in advance should visitors wish to speak with staff face to face
- Our new build and planned renovations to the existing building are due to begin during July and site visits will be carefully timed and coordinated

- We will continue to be in regular contact with you and keep you informed of any significant updates
- We will act upon further guidance given as appropriate and welcome Flintshire and the Welsh Government's support to this end. The planned 'Test, Track and Protect' and other national initiatives could play a role in this eventually.

Conclusion

We do not know for how long such a plan will be required, and this document cannot predict with accuracy the course of national measures. However, in working together and placing student and staff welfare at the centre of all we do, we are confident that we are doing all things realistically possible to ensure a successful partial reopening. We thoroughly appreciate your understanding and support in these matters. Please do remember, if for any reason at all you do not feel this is the right time for your child(ren) to return to school, you have our full support in this decision. We will continue to provide distance learning for all through our published Continuation of Learning Plan.

Appendix – Possible Further Helpful Information & Resources

- Cruse Bereavement Care: A national charity for bereaved people in England, Wales and Northern Ireland: www.cruse.org.uk/get-help/for-schools/recognising-changes-in-behaviour
- NHS: Mental health and wellbeing: www.nhs.uk/conditions/stress-anxiety-depression/
- NHS: Anxiety in children: www.nhs.uk/conditions/stress-anxiety-depression/anxiety-in-children/
- NSPCC: Coronavirus (COVID-19), lockdown and domestic abuse: www.nspcc.org.uk/what-is-child-abuse/types-of-abuse/domestic-abuse/
- NSPCC: Safeguarding and child protection in schools: <https://bit.ly/2yPrmEr>
- NSPCC: Children's mental health: www.nspcc.org.uk/keeping-children-safe/childrens-mental-health/