



Ark John Keats Academy

20th July 2020

Dear Year 7 parents/carers,

I am writing to provide some clarity about our plans for September. We are delighted to see the government guidance which prioritises returning all year groups to school in September. The government has also indicated a return to compulsory attendance, meaning your children must attend school every day from September. I think we are united in our wish to have children back with some urgency to close the inevitable gap from a long stretch out of school.

Of course, September will not look identical to every other year at AJK. We will need to take measures to ensure your children and our staff can be safe in school.

The first day of term for year 7 will be on **8th September**. This will be a partial day running from **9:50am to 2:00pm**. They should **not** attend school on 9th September.

The second day of term for year 7 will be **10th September**. The timings for these two days are **8:45am to 1:05pm**. The gates will open at 8:30am. From 14th September, your child's school day will run from 8:45am (arrival from 8:30am) to 3:30pm Monday to Thursday and 8:45-2:40pm on Friday. We have changed our school hours temporarily to ensure our school day can be staggered to meet current government guidance.

We have been working hard to make sure that returning to school is as safe as possible for your child. These include:

- Grouping students into year group "bubbles". Students will not mix with children from other year groups during the day
- Re-organising the site so that students stay within one zone for their lessons and break times
- Introducing extra cleaning during the day, particularly of things people touch (e.g. door handles)
- Introducing a one-way system
- Requiring students and staff to sanitise their hands on arrival and after breaks

These measures will mean some changes to what your child is used to. We will use the first day of school to teach them what has changed and to explain why.

Below I have shared the most important information that you need to know in advance of September. Please do read it carefully, and let us know if you have any questions. We will share the answers to any frequently asked questions with all parents.

Arriving and leaving school

All Y7 students should come in via the secondary gate. They will then be directed to the entry point by the dining hall.

Travelling to school

Students should walk or cycle where possible. If students take public transport then they are legally required to wear a face mask from age 11 onwards.

Pupil groups

In Y7, pupils will be taught in the same group for all lessons, including tutor time. We will write to you in late August to let you know which group your child is in.

Lunch

To reduce transmission through touch, from September any pupil in any year group who wishes to bring a packed lunch may do so. Your child will be issued a card which is linked to your ParentPay account. You must ensure you have money on your ParentPay account for the days you want your child to buy lunch, as there will not be an opportunity to pay for meals in school in person. Please note that pupils must only bring in healthy

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Secondary Headteacher: William Mackintosh
Primary Headteacher: Amy Baird

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food: a sandwich or salad, fruit, yoghurt and cereal bar. The following items remain banned and will be confiscated and disposed of if brought in: crisps, chocolate, sweets, any drink apart from water. Importantly, please ensure no nuts are brought into school as we have pupils with very severe allergies.

Uniform

The government recommend that schools return to their normal uniform policies for September. We will follow this recommendation. There is no requirement to wash uniform more often than normal.

Equipment

Students will not be able to share equipment. Please ensure your child comes with their full equipment as below:

2 black writing pens	1 pencil sharpener
1 blue pen	1 rubber
1 red writing pen	1 glue stick
1 green writing pen	1 15cm/30cm ruler
2 highlighter pens	1 Casio FX-85 ES or Casio FX-85 GT Calculator
1 compass	1 Oxford School Dictionary
1 sharpened pencil	Water bottle
1 protractor	A reading book at age appropriate level.

Enrichment

Government restrictions mean that we will have a more limited enrichment offer than normal. Enrichment will be taught in regular form groups for at least the Autumn term to prevent mixing.

Contact details

We must have accurate contact details that we can use to reach you during the day. This is so that if your child develops coronavirus symptoms we can arrange to send them home. If you have changed your mobile or work numbers, then please let us know.

Staying home

Your child must not attend school if they, or anyone else in your household, has developed:

- a new and continuous cough;
- a high temperature;
- a loss or change in their sense of smell or taste.

We will share full guidance on what to do if this happens, including how to book a coronavirus test, in September.

Thank you once again for your support with your child's education this year. We are extremely grateful. With your support we will be able to make the return to school in September a real success.

Yours sincerely,

Jo Facer
Principal

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