

1. Is it compulsory for my child to attend College in September?

When schools reopen fully in September, the Government has explained that attendance will once again be mandatory. In practical terms, this means that all students will be expected to attend College every day from Wednesday 2nd September 2020. We understand that some parents and students may feel anxious about this, but we want to reassure everyone we are doing all we can, in line with Government guidance, to make College a safe place and limit any potential transmission of the virus. We will not be able to authorise an absence because a parent or child is feeling anxious about Coronavirus unless there is a letter from a GP or the NHS explicitly stating the student should not attend school.

2. How will the College ensure they meet the Government guidelines around social distancing?

In line with Government guidance accepting ‘groups are likely to need to be the size of a year group’, we are putting plans in place to ensure each year group:

- forms its own bubble
- is located in one area of the college for their lessons
- arrives, has lessons and breaks, and leaves separately to other year groups.

The school day for each year group will be as follows:

Y9	8:15am – 2:15pm
Y8	8:30am – 2:30pm
Y7	9:00am – 3:15pm*
Y10	9:30am – 3:30pm
Y11	9:15am – 3:15pm*

*Y7 and Y11 will leave the building via different exits.

These arrangements will enable the College to ‘deliver the full range of curriculum subjects and students to receive specialist teaching’ whilst ‘maintaining distinct groups or ‘bubbles’ that do not mix’.

3. Will my child be able to travel to College on a school bus?

Please be aware that the bus services our students use are commercial operations and are not provided by Horizon. Changes to services are decided by the operators.

However, we have been in conversation with both Globe (478) and Hodgsons (479). It is their intention to run services as they did before the college ‘closure’. This decision is based on Government guidance stating that restrictions on public transport for the general public ‘will not apply from the autumn term on dedicated transport’. Therefore, unless government guidance or circumstances change, we expect

your child to be able to use either the 478 or 479 service to travel to Horizon Community College from September as normal. These services will continue to be for Y8/9, Y7 and Y10/11.

South Yorkshire Public Transport Executive are awaiting further guidance from the Government and we will confirm arrangements and the service timings provided by Globe and Hodgsons with you as soon as they are available.

4. How do I prepare my child for their return to school?

We would ask all parents and carers to ensure their children are re-introduced to positive eating and sleeping routines. Over the next 6 weeks, they need to get used to going to bed and getting up at a reasonable time. A positive routine now will help in September when students will need to be both punctual and mentally ready for learning.

Similarly, we would ask that you encourage your child to eat three proper meals a day. A regular, balanced diet will support not only a healthy body but also a healthy mind, and so will help students to re-engage effectively with their learning.

5. Is my child expected to wear uniform to College in September?

Yes. We continue to uphold the highest expectations around standards and all students will be expected to wear full school uniform when they return in September. Please refer to the College website for the most up to date uniform information.

We are aware that some students may have dyed their hair or had piercings whilst they have been away from school. In order to avoid any uniform infringements, can we please ask you to ensure that your child's hair is of an acceptable length/colour and any piercings are removed before the start of term.

6. How will the College help to support my child's wellbeing?

We appreciate that this has been a very unsettling time for many students.

To support your child as they return to College, each School Team will be located in the same block as their year group. This year that team will include dedicated Student Well-being Officers, who are there to support your child as they adapt to a way of working that may initially feel different and a little strange. Form Time will also have a clear focus on well-being across the autumn term, whilst weekly assemblies will continue through a video link to the form room.

Many students have been following the BELIEVE coaching programme this term. It may be sensible for them to revisit this programme as they prepare for their return to college, as this is an excellent way of helping to build personal confidence and resilience.

7. What measures will the school put in place to ensure the highest levels of cleanliness are maintained?

In line with Government guidance, we have put in place a thorough risk assessment to support the safe return of your child to College.

Measures include each year group forming its own 'bubble' and being taught in a separate area of the College. Students in each year group will also arrive and leave at different times to other year groups. Each bubble will have designated toilet facilities, and hand sanitiser and tissues will be readily available. Water fountains will not be in use to help support a healthy environment. Surfaces will be cleaned across the day and the College building deep cleaned each evening. These measures are being put in place to limit the chances of the virus being transmitted across year groups.

A copy of the College Risk Assessment is available on the website.

8. How will students be supported with their learning when they return to College?

Many students have continued to work extremely hard at home and made real progress with their learning. However, nothing can replace face-to-face learning and we are excited at the prospect of having all students back in the classroom.

To support a successful return, subject leaders have been adapting their schemes of learning to ensure gaps in knowledge and skills can be closed; a 'do now' activity is being introduced at the start of lessons to help students retrieve previously learned knowledge and maximise learning time; regular 'progress checks' will help teachers understand exactly where students are struggling, so they can plan lessons to support all learners; lesson resources will be uploaded onto Microsoft Teams and students will be expected to take their books home each day, so that they can continue to learn outside the classroom.

We are also making sure we are prepared to deliver high quality lessons remotely if students have to work from home again, for example due to a localised lockdown. All students will be trained in how to use Microsoft Teams in September so that they can access this remote learning if they need to.

9. My child will be in Y11 in September and I am worried about his/her final exams. How can the school help?

We want to ensure that our Year 11 students are fully prepared for and confident about taking their final exams in Summer 2021.

Their remote learning and the tutorials that they have been attending this half term mean will have helped to lay secure foundations for their success next year. However, to further support students during Year 11 we have timetabled an extra period of English, Maths, History or Geography and Option 2 (including MFL) each fortnight. Those studying the separate Sciences will also have additional lesson time.

These additional timetabled lessons will enable us to revisit and so embed learning completed at home during the school closure period. Students who study the separate Sciences will also have an extended school day once a week, to ensure they have enough time to fully complete the course. This extra time is in addition to the hour a fortnight already mentioned.

In addition, students will have a fortnightly timetabled period of PE. Where appropriate, this will enable us to withdraw small groups to focus on revision strategies and retrieval activities for their examined subjects. Those continuing to study BTEC PE will also be able to use this time to support the completion of their coursework, so that it is of the highest possible standard.