

Frequently asked questions in response to 'Return to college arrangements', sent out via Parentmail on the afternoon of Thursday 20.8.2020

1. What does a 'bubble' mean and how will it affect my child?

A bubble is a group of students who work together but have limited interaction with other groups of students.

In July, schools received guidance from the government about preparing for the full opening of schools in September. Within this guidance, it states 'In secondary schools... the groups are likely to need to be the size of a year group to enable schools to deliver the full range of curriculum subjects and for students to receive specialist teaching'.

At Horizon each year group will form its own bubble and have the majority of its lessons within a designated area of the college.

2. Why are classrooms set up differently?

All classrooms now have rectangular tables organised into rows that face the front of the class. This is a big change for the college and has meant the reorganisation of every classroom. It has been introduced to meet the government guidance that states schools should 'include seating pupils side by side and facing forwards, rather than face to face'.

3. My child will be in Year 7 – how do I add money to their dinner account via Parentmail?

You will be able to top-up your child's dinner account using the ParentMail App or via the ParentMail website from Tuesday, 1st September, when your child officially comes on roll at Horizon. Please ensure you have used the top-up facility before Wednesday, 2nd September if your child is going to purchase food in college.

4. Can my child wear black Kicker shoes?

Yes. We listened to parental feedback from last year and students are allowed to wear black Kicker shoes with a red and green tag – see examples below.



5. How can my child access water during the day as the water fountains will not be in operation?

Students are encouraged to bring a full water bottle to college with them each day. They will then be able to buy water and other soft drinks (eg a carton of apple juice) at both break and lunchtime.

6. Can my child bring a Kindle instead of a reading book to college?

Students in years 7 and 8 are expected to bring a reading with them every day. Unfortunately, we ask that this is a physical book. Students are welcome to borrow these from the college library if they do not have any at home. Students in years 9, 10 and 11 are no longer expected to bring a book with them every day.

7. Will there be assemblies in the Theatre?

All year groups will have a weekly assembly. However, these will be via a video link, shown during Form Period.

8. My child receives free school meals. What food options can they have?

Students will be able to purchase a choice from the 'Grab and Go' menu each day. This includes a hot snack of the day or a sandwich of the day, along with a home bake and a drink.