



Parkstone Grammar School

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Dear Parents, Carers and Students

I hope that you have been able to have an enjoyable summer even under the current restrictions that are nationally in place. As our thoughts turn towards the return to school next week I wanted to give you a quick update on our preparations that have been going on during the summer break.

At the start of the holidays I sent out extensive details on what measures we will have in place to reduce the risk factor as much as is possible (also posted to the school website at <https://www.parkstone.poole.sch.uk/parents/letters/> - letter ref 0607) and largely these measures remain unchanged from that time. Both the premises and IT teams have been working throughout the summer to ensure that these measures are in place ready for you at the beginning of term. Later today Mr Graves will be sending out reminders of the practical operational instructions to students; please take some time to familiarise yourself with these. It will take all of us a little time to get used to the new way in which school will function. Please don't worry if you forget how the systems operate as staff will be there to help and assist while you get used to the way that the risk reduction measures will work.

There is one change to the details that were sent, in that students will be required to wear facial masks in communal areas such as corridors and the canteen, but these can be removed in the classroom. Although this is potentially restrictive in some ways, it is another way in which we can reduce the risk of infection and contamination. Students should bring a face mask with them to wear at school.

School transport will continue to work as it has in the past although there might be extra buses running on routes in order to help with social distancing. Please see the attached document from BPC giving further guidance for travellers on both dedicated school buses and public buses. Also attached is guidance received from South West Railways. The Government is still encouraging students to either walk, cycle or come in to school by private car if possible.

Could I also take this opportunity to remind you that full school uniform is expected to be worn. Hair should be neat and tidy and of one natural colour and that only one small gold, silver or clear stud per ear in each ear lobe is allowed. Sixth form students must adhere to their dress code. There is no food available from the canteen at the start of the day or at break time - the canteen will only be open for the serving of lunch at the times given to each year bubble. Lockers are also not available to use so students will need to carefully plan what they need to bring to school for each day. We cannot allow students to store items in their classroom due to the cleaning procedures that need to take place.

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As you will be aware, there are currently restrictions on travellers returning to the UK after visiting specific countries. Full information and guidance on this is available from the Government's Foreign Travel Advice website : <https://www.gov.uk/foreign-travel-advice>. If your child is required to self-isolate following the return from a trip and will not be returning for the first day of term, please advise the school's Attendance Team (email attendance@parkstone.poole.sch.uk or telephone 01202 605605 and select the relevant option).

Right from the beginning of this crisis I have been so proud of the way in which the school community at Parkstone has worked together to ensure the best possible solutions and outcomes. Now again as we return to school for the first time in many months we will need to look after each other and be considerate to one another to ensure we are all as safe as possible and that we can get back to face to face teaching and learning.

I am really excited and looking forward to welcoming you all back to school and I am sure you will continue to make the most of all the opportunities that are presented to you this year, even if they may look a little different to those you have be used to.

Thank you for your continued support, it is very much appreciated.

Yours sincerely

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'David Hallsworth', with a long horizontal stroke extending to the right.

David Hallsworth