



# HENLEY BANK HIGH SCHOOL

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29<sup>th</sup> August 2020

Dear Parents and Carers,

We are really excited to safely welcome our students back to school. Below is a reminder of the days that each year group will return to school:

Thursday 3<sup>rd</sup> September – All of Year 7

Friday 4<sup>th</sup> September – All of Year 7 and Year 11

Monday 7<sup>th</sup> September – All Year groups

As you may be aware, the government has this week changed their advice surrounding the wearing of face masks in school. Previously they had said that the wearing of masks should not be necessary in any school. This has now been updated and the Department for Education has stated:

*“Nationwide, while the government is not recommending face coverings are necessary, schools will have the discretion to require face coverings in communal areas if they believe that is right in their particular circumstances.*

*In addition, the government will advise additional measures are taken in areas where the transmission of the virus is high. In these areas, defined as areas of national government intervention as listed on ‘gov.uk’, the government’s guidance will state face coverings should be worn by adults and pupils in secondary schools when moving around the school such as in corridors and communal areas where social distancing is difficult to maintain. It will not be necessary to wear face coverings in the classroom, where protective measures already mean the risks are lower, and where they can inhabit learning”.*

Our local area has an incredibly low rate of Covid-19 infection and transmission and as a school we have taken a number of precautions to minimise any risk, as outlined in previous correspondence to you and available on the website. Therefore, in line with the above government guidance, we will not be making the wearing of masks mandatory in any area of the school.

However, I absolutely recognise that some students feel more comfortable wearing a face mask in the corridors and/or in the classroom and I am very happy for them to do so. Please note that masks must be plain in appearance, no logos or motifs, and must be worn appropriately and sensibly. Any student intentionally misusing a mask will be required to take it off.

I will of course review this decision in light of any updated government guidance and any changes in the local situation.

I understand there is a lot of emotion surrounding students returning to school, which is why so many plans and procedures such as each year group in their own ‘zone’ (which includes classrooms, toilets and areas for break/lunchtime), additional ‘deep cleaning’ throughout the day and hand sanitising stations throughout the school and in every classroom, have been put in to



place. All of this information can be found in the letter sent to you before the end of the summer term. Can I take this opportunity to remind you that we will be reviewing all government guidance as it comes out and adapting our plans accordingly.

Furthermore, we will be reducing the amount of people on site outside of staff and students, so please can we ask that you only visit the school for a pre-booked meeting, please only send one member of your household. If you require any help or have any questions please continue to contact the school office on 01452 863372 or email, [admin@henleybankhighschool.co.uk](mailto:admin@henleybankhighschool.co.uk)

If you are dropping off your son/daughter, please do this safely and promptly to avoid additional people around the school. All entrances and exits will be open to the school with staff ready to inform students exactly where they need to go on the first day they are back on school site.

Thank you for your continued support throughout this unusual time.

Many thanks,

Mr S Derry  
**Headteacher**

