

Friday 4th September 2020

Dear Parent/Carer

It has been brilliant to see all of our children back with us this week. We are so incredibly proud of how they have responded to all of our changes and this shows their true resilience.

I wanted to write to you today with a few updates and a reminder of the procedures for the new term.

Masks

As in the previous letter, please see below regarding wearing of masks. Please note, if you wish for your child to not wear a mask, please make your child's Head of Year aware.

Following the recent Government announcement, we have now asked all staff to wear masks in communal areas, such as corridors and the dining room.

From the 31st August all secondary students will be required to wear a face mask in the following areas:

- corridors
- communal indoor spaces
- dining halls (when entering, queuing, and leaving).
- during fire evacuations
- any other area of the school where students may mix outside their bubble

Students are not required to wear face masks:

- during lessons
- in outside spaces if they are contained within their bubble
- whilst eating

Exemptions to this policy

Any student presenting appropriate medical evidence will be exempted from wearing face masks. In order to provide medical exemption for your child, please notify your child's Head of Year.

Types of face masks

Students should wear face masks that comply with the following requirements

- covers nose and mouth
- does not have any offensive or contentious words, patterns or images printed on it



Students should not wear face coverings of the following descriptions:

- scarfs
- bandanas
- the pulling up of coats, hoodies or other clothing over mouths and noses

Mask supply

We would expect most students to provide their own face masks, but provision should be made for FSM/Pupil Premium students who may struggle to access face masks. If you feel that you will struggle to provide your child with a face mask, please contact us on contact@nusa.org.uk

'Bubbles'

Students will be placed in year group 'bubbles' and will not mix with any students from other year groups. Students will use a 'one-way' system within the corridors and will be expected to move quickly in silence to their next classroom.

Using Public Transport

The current expectation from the Government is that any student who uses public transport to travel to school must wear a mask whilst on public transport. This may change so please keep an eye on the news for updates.

Uniform

It is our expectation that all students wear full school uniform on return. Further guidance on school uniform is attached to this letter and is available on our website. Sanctions will be given for any student not wearing full school uniform in line with our behaviour policy. https://www.nusa.org.uk/page.php?p=uniform

It is vital that you inform us if your child does not have correct school uniform so that we can help support both yourself and your child.

Please note, we do not allow hooped earrings or any form of facial piercings. Any student who attends school with these in will be asked to remove them.

Equipment

It is more essential than ever that students have their own equipment. They will need to go in to adult life with the ability to be prepared so it is important that they adhere to this basic expectation now. The equipment list is as follows:

- Clear plastic pencil case
- 2 pens
- 1 pencil
- 1 ruler
- 1 sharpener
- 1 rubber
- Highlighters

Students may also choose to bring:

- A calculator
- Glue
- Pencil crayons
- A compass
- Felt tips

Sanctions will be given for any student who does not have full equipment in line with our behaviour policy. There will be opportunity for any student who does not have equipment to purchase it in school as staff will not be able to hand equipment out.

Start times

All students will then return on Monday 7th September full time. Attendance is compulsory unless you have received medical guidance to suggest otherwise. In the event of this, please contact school at contact@nusa.org.uk

The school day will have a 'staggered' start under the new Covid timetable regulations. This is to ensure that students maintain their Year group 'bubbles' where possible.

Year group	Time	Gate	Line up
7	08:30am	Side gate	Gym
8	08:40am	Side gate	Sports Hall
9	08:45am	Side gate	Street
10	08:40am	Reception	Canteen
11	08:30am	Reception	Lecture theatre
NUSA16	08:45am	Reception	Library

We ask that all students arrive at this time and do not arrive earlier. We will have no provision for students to be in school earlier than the time stated above.

Lessons

Lessons will continue to be taught in sets as they are now. Students will have access to a full range of curriculum subjects. Instead of 6 single periods each day, students will now have 3 double periods each day. This is aimed at reducing movement between classrooms.

Break time

Given the short duration of breaktime and the large volume of students to be served, we will not be serving any breaktime snacks in the canteen during this Covid period. Instead, we are asking that all students come to school with a drink and snack which they will be able to eat in the classroom at the end of period 2. No fizzy pop or energy drinks please.

Lunch time

Lunch times will take place on a staggered basis and each year group will have their own dedicated area for lunch time. Year groups will not mix during this time.

Drinks

We are having new foot pump water fountains installed over the Summer holidays. These are foot operated and do not need to be touched with hands. If students wish, they can bring refillable water bottles to use the fountains.

Hygiene

All students will have access to sinks for washing hands following trips to the toilet and will be provided with anti-bacterial gel throughout the school day.

Illness

What will happen if a student or a member of staff becomes symptomatic during the school day?

We have already established an isolation room where anyone who develops the symptoms of COVID-19 can be cared for while we arrange for them to be taken home, or seek further medical assistance. Parents

and carers must ensure that we have up to date contact information in the case of such an emergency. If any member of our school community tests positive for COVID-19, we will work with our local health protection team who will help us to decide on the most appropriate next steps. All stakeholders need to appreciate that even with all of these additional control measures in place, there is still the possibility that we could be forced to close to some or all of our students for a period of 14 days. If this were to happen, we would inform parents and carers via email, and we would expect staff and students to revert to setting work via Microsoft Teams.

Staying at home if you are symptomatic

The most important step anyone can take is to be self-aware with regards to the key symptoms of COVID-19, and stay at home if they develop a new, continuous cough, a high temperature, or if there is a loss or change in their normal sense of taste or smell. There will be tissues available in all teaching areas, and lidded bins for their disposal, so that everyone can 'catch it, bin it & kill it'.

Expectations

We expect nothing less than excellent behaviour at NUSA. All students should work hard and be kind. Our expectations will remain high and any student who fails to meet this will be sanctioned in accordance with our behaviour policy. All of your deserve to learn in a calm and purposeful learning environment.

End of school

School will begin to end each day at 2:30pm. Each year group will be dismissed one at a time and as soon as each year group has cleared the school area, the next year group will be dismissed. The latest students will finish will be 3pm. We ask all parents/guardians to ensure that they wait at the bottom of the drive to collect students as opposed to on the school site.

Extra-curricular

In the short-term, we will be unable to run any form of extra-curricular activities after school.

MCAS

This is a reminder to all parents and carers to sign up to MCAS if not already done so. Below is a link to the joining instructions:

https://www.nusa.org.uk/data/letters/files/MCAS Sign Up 2.pdf

MCAS allows parents and carers to update their personal contact details online ensuring we have the correct contact details. Please can all parents and carers check their contact details on MCAS and ensure this information is up to date.

If you have any questions regarding the return in September, please email through your questions on contact@nusa.org.uk.

Yours Sincerely,

Emma Howard Head of School