

Dear Parents,

We are very much looking forward to welcoming back the whole school community in September and, following Mr Stanford's letter last week about the principles of our return to school, I am writing to lay out more detail on the specific arrangements around the return for Senior School students. James Miller is sending a similar communication to Junior School families; parents with children in both Junior and Senior year groups will see that while there are differences in the specific logistics, the principles of our Covid-19 safe arrangements remain consistent across the whole school.

There is a significant amount of information to convey to you as parents, so I encourage you to take time to read and digest the attached document. All of this information is also available on a new section on our website www.rgs.newcastle.sch.uk/current-families/returning-to-school where we will add any updates or new information on our Covid-safe procedures. While I recognise that we all crave certainty, I need to emphasise that the attached logistics will undoubtedly evolve over the term, to reflect changing Government guidelines. As an example, the issue of face coverings in schools is obviously very high profile at the moment, and whilst this is such a fluid situation we are keeping a decision on what is appropriate for our school under review. However, all those travelling into school on public transport will need them and it seems likely that there will be at least some need for access to face coverings in school for Senior School students, so we would ask that you make provision for this in your return to school planning. Further clarification on this will follow.

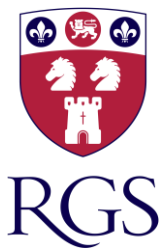
Please feel free to share all of the attached information with your child. However, next week there will be a further communication specifically addressed to students, including a video to explain the Covid-19 safe rules we will be implementing to help keep our whole community as safe as possible. In advance of this student-focussed communication, if any parents or students are concerned about any aspect of our return or your family's specific circumstances, then please contact the Head of Year team for support. We hope the blog entitled 'How can I help my child prepare for a return to school' available [here](#), will also be of help throughout this time.

As I hope you will all agree, getting students back into class is a priority from the perspective of supporting our young people's education and wellbeing, and we are determined to make that process of transition back to school as smooth as possible. At the same time, we are well aware that there is anxiety for many about how that return will work and the measures that will be in place to reduce risk for all the members of our community. I hope that this information will go a long way to reassuring you that we are taking this responsibility very seriously.

One of our first priorities on student return is to agree a safe system of working in school, and given this will be a very significant change we will be asking all students to agree a new behaviour charter at the very start of term. We appreciate that people have very mixed feelings on what is appropriate behaviour in these extraordinary times but hope that everyone can understand that we are bound by Government guidance to put in place routines and ensure behaviour patterns adhere to these. This charter can be found on [the returning to school webpage in the resources section](#), and we would be very grateful if you could spend some time talking this through as a family to support the work that we are doing to keep everyone as safe as we can.

I very much look forward to welcoming the community back at the start of term, and if

Royal Grammar School, Eskdale Terrace, Newcastle upon Tyne NE2 4DX
T: 0191 281 5711 E: communications@rgs.newcastle.sch.uk www.rgs.newcastle.sch.uk



you have any questions or queries, then please do continue to contact us via communications@rgs.newcastle.sch.uk

Kind Regards,

Tom Keenan

Deputy Head

Royal Grammar School, Eskdale Terrace, Newcastle upon Tyne NE2 4DX
T: 0191 281 5711 E: communications@rgs.newcastle.sch.uk www.rgs.newcastle.sch.uk

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