



KING HENRY VIII SCHOOL YSGOL BRENIN HARRI'R VIII

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Dear parents and guardians,

RETURN TO SCHOOL SEPTEMBER

On Monday 13th July the Welsh Government published two key documents:

1. Operational Guidance for schools and settings from the autumn term;
2. Guidance on learning in schools and settings from the autumn term

These two documents along with the experience of organising our summer term Check In, Catch Up, Prepare provision will support us in developing robust plans for the return of our school community in September. In this letter, we are sharing our outline plans. We are working closely with Monmouthshire Local Authority to refine our planning over the next few weeks so that we will be in a position to publish a **Student, Parent and Guardian guidance document on Friday 21st August detailing our final arrangements for the autumn term 2020.**

Our intention is to be available in school on Thursday 27th August and shall be offering all students, parents and guardians the opportunity to meet with us virtually to address any concerns. If there are any queries prior to this, please use the info@khs.schoolsedu.org.uk email address. This email shall be monitored during the holiday period. We may take longer than usual to respond but be assured we shall get back to you.

We know being out of school can be detrimental for students' cognitive and academic development and their health and wellbeing. As a school we are putting in place proportionate measures for students and staff. To ensure our school community are ready for the return of our students we have organised a phased re-opening in September. We have also given priority to year 7 who have been unable to undertake normal transition activities and then year 11 and 13 who have summative examinations in the academic year. All students will receive work through our blended learning approach as from Thursday 3rd September.

Start of term arrangements

Tuesday 1st September	Staff planning and preparation day
Wednesday 2nd September	Staff planning and preparation day
Thursday 3rd September	Year 7 induction in school Years 8, 9, 10, 11, 12 & 13 blended learning
Friday 4th September	Year 7 induction in school Years 8, 9, 10, 11, 12 & 13 blended learning
Monday 7th September	Year 7, 11 and 13 in school Years 8, 9, 10 & 12 blended learning
Tuesday 8th September	Years 7, 10, 11, 12 & 13 in school Years 8 & 9 blended learning
Wednesday 9th September	Years 7, 9, 10, 11, 12 & 13 in school Year 8 blended learning
Thursday 10th September	All students in school

Final start times and school entrance shall be communicated on **Friday 21st August**. This information shall be emailed to parents, placed on our website and shared through our Twitter account [KHS Abergavenny@KingHenrySchool](https://twitter.com/KingHenrySchool)

School organisation and the school day

Although all our students and staff are returning our school will be organised in a safe manner. Measures that we will be implementing include:

- ✓ A staggered start to the day with different groups arriving at slightly different times using different entrances to the school building;
- ✓ Classroom arrangements with forward facing desks and a safe zone for staff that allows them to maintain a social distance of 2 metres from the students;

- ✓ Students will be placed in groups of around 30.
- ✓ Students in years 7, 8 and 9 are to be placed in a teaching group, their 'contact' group. Each year group will have a designated zone. Students will remain in their classrooms and specialist staff will move to the teaching group;
- ✓ Students in year 10 and in year 11 will be in year bubbles to allow for the teaching of their core and option subjects. Again each year group will remain in a zone.
- ✓ Amending our school day so our students shall have three 100 minute lessons. This is exactly the same allocation of teaching as normal but limits the number of staff that have contact with a class in any one day.
- ✓ Each year group will have two 30 minute breaks. These breaks shall be staggered across the day with only two years groups on a break at any one time. Each year group on a break will have a separate canteen and outdoor area. If raining students will return to their zone and class.

Our school day shall be 10 minutes shorter than normal due to the slight reduction in break time allocation. This reduction is in line with the temporary disapplication of regulations 3 and 4 of the Changing of School Sessions Times (Wales) Regulations 2009. The disapplication shall come into force on 1 September 2020 and will allow schools and local authorities to make changes to their school day start and finish times when all learners return for the new term. This temporary disapplication will only apply to changes to session times made due to the incidence of coronavirus and any changes made whilst the notice has effect will not be permanent.

As stated earlier final start and finish times for all groups of learners shall be confirmed on **Friday 21st August**.

Curriculum

As with our Check In, Catch Up, Prepare provision our primary focus has been the physical safety, and mental and emotional wellbeing of students. This will continue in September. In addition to our health and wellbeing curriculum many students may need to revisit aspects of their learning. This will be factored into our planning in a diagnostic way so that we can swiftly identify any gaps in their learning and address these where required.

All students will be taught by specialist staff and continue to follow our broad and balanced curriculum. We are keen to introduce practical work and use some of our specialist teaching rooms e.g. technology. These rooms and equipment will be cleaned between 'contact' groups.

On days when students have physical education they are to wear their school PE uniform. The PE team are adhering to the latest safe guidance on the delivery of practical lessons and have many exciting but safe activities planned.

Safe routines

In collaboration with Monmouthshire LA we shall revise our health and safety risk assessments. Essential measures include:

- ✓ A requirement that people who are unwell with symptoms of COVID – 19 stay at home;
- ✓ Robust hand and respiratory hygiene including ventilation;
- ✓ Continue increased cleaning arrangements;
- ✓ Active engagement with Test, Trace, Protect;

We shall re-visit and explain our safe routines and expectations, these are:

- ✓ Maintaining a safe social distance;
- ✓ Do not gather in large groups;
- ✓ Stop and wait when you are asked;
- ✓ Wash your hands for 20 seconds;
- ✓ Cough and sneeze into your elbow;
- ✓ Avoid touching your eyes, nose and mouth.

Uniform

We are expecting all students to wear full school uniform in September. We know school uniform plays an important role in maintaining our school ethos and contributing to a sense of pride in our school community. On days students have PE they are to wear their school PE uniform.

Equipment

Our students need to bring a school rucksack that contains their normal writing equipment of pen, pencil, ruler, rubber contained within a pencil case. We shall also be providing every student with their own mini white board pack to allow for interactive learning in the classroom. Those that have already been provided with one are to bring this with them in September.

Over the summer, we are working on a whole school digital strategy and shall communicate our plans with regard to this on Friday 21st August.

Attendance

We are looking forward to all our students returning in September unless they have a medical/health reason not to. This will include students who are still shielding, if the advice at the time is that they should attend school. If any of our students are unable to attend for health reasons then we shall engage with them through our blended learning approach.

We would not expect any student (or member of staff) if they feel unwell, have any of the three identified COVID – 19 symptoms or they have tested positive to COVID – 19 in the past 7 days to attend school. In addition no student (or member of staff) is to attend school if they live in a household or are part of an extended household with someone who has symptoms of COVID – 19 or has tested positive for COVID – 19 in the past 14 days.

Catering

Our intention is to offer onsite catering. Final details on catering shall be published in the Student, Parent and Guardian guidance document on Friday 21st August.

Transport

We are awaiting guidance on student transport and this impacts on how we shall organise our school day. Rather than speculate on what the expectations may be we would rather wait until the guidance is published and local information is received from Monmouthshire LA.

We know this is a long letter and trust this provides you with some clarity on the way forward in September. As a school we know that the situation with regard to COVID – 19 could improve prior to September or deteriorate. Be assured we are prepared for whatever scenario is presented and trust that the plans outlined here are how we start the term.

Finally can I thank you for your on-going support this year and wish you all a safe and enjoyable summer holiday. As a school we are delighted that our students shall return in September and cannot wait to catch up with them all.

Yours sincerely

Elspeth Lewis
Executive Head teacher

Mark Stockham
Head of School