



4<sup>th</sup> September 2020

Dear Parents/Carer's

Although we start the new school year in a very different world, one which this time last year we wouldn't have imagined, we have been truly excited to welcome the students back and see so many smiling faces. This week we have worked with the students to re-engage and re-connect with school and we have been delighted by their resilience to adapt to the changing environment.

I would particularly like to welcome our new year 7 students and their families; we are very much looking forward to working with you.

As you can appreciate, the logistics of re-opening the school are and continue to be complex. Colleagues have ensured that the school building has been adjusted to allow for a safe re-opening for all students. Over the first 3 days of face to face learning we have been able to educate 98% of our young people due to their attendance on site. For the small group of students who have yet, for individual reasons not been able to attend school, we look forward to seeing you in the very near future.

As a school that believes in stakeholder engagement, we have carefully considered feedback from students, parents and colleagues around the way we can further enhance the school learning environment. Attached is the new working model and plan for the school day, please note that start and finishing times of the school day have not been changed. As always, this plan will be monitored, evaluated and reviewed to meet national, regional and local guidance.

Please find below some important information and reminders.

### Break and Lunchtime

This has been reviewed and adapted throughout the week, please see the attached document for the updated break and lunchtime arrangements. It is also important to remember that unless the weather is particularly wet all students will be expected to spend some of their break and lunchtime outside. Please ensure your child brings a coat to school and an umbrella if rain is forecast.

After careful consideration it is clear that the vast majority of students are now bringing their own snack and drink for breaktime and in order to provide a more suitable arrangement for our student bubbles we have made the decision that **food will not be available to purchase at breaktime**. We would therefore encourage you to provide your child with a suitable snack and drink for morning break. Food service will be available at lunchtime in their allocated area.

### Lunch Cards

As a risk reduction measure, we have introduced lunch cards for students to pay for their food rather than using their finger for biometric registration/payment. The cards are working well and appear to be reducing queuing time at the food outlets. Cards have been issued free to all students, if your child loses their card, a £2.50 replacement fee will be deducted from their cashless catering balance. Replacement cards can be issued from IT Services in room 109 and lost cards can be de-activated at this point.

## Online Payments

To reduce cash handling, we are no longer accepting cash in school. We would request that parents top up school meal accounts online via Scopay. Information about setting up an online payment account has been sent out by email to new students. If you have not received a letter or have forgotten your login please email [finance@nestonhigh.com](mailto:finance@nestonhigh.com).

## Travelling to and from School

Government guidance encourages as many children to walk or cycle to school. We do though understand that for many of our students this is not possible, due to the distance that they live away from school. If it is safe to do so we would encourage as many students to walk as possible.

Traffic this week has been particularly heavy and we would encourage parents to drop their children off at one of the car parks at Neston if possible and allow them to walk up to school. Thank you to all the parents that have opted to do this, we appreciate your support.

**If your child cannot walk up to school please use the designated student drop off car park in front of the hockey pitch. Please remember to be courteous to other drivers and ensure you follow the one-way system that is in place. At the end of the day, park in the designated bays rather than waiting and queuing to allow the traffic to continue to flow and others to exit their car parking spaces. Student safety needs to be the priority and we have requested the support of local community police to help encourage that all drivers follow safe practice. Can I remind all drivers that Raby Park Road near the school is a 20 mile an hour speed limit.**

The car park in front of Brio is for Brio customers only and has a barriered exit. The car park in front of the school is reserved for staff and students with official blue badges only. To ease congestion and give access to emergency vehicles and buses, can we please request that parents do not park up on Raby Park Road.

Students who are travelling by bus must wear a face mask for the full journey. Please remind your child of the importance of adhering to this rule as the bus company will decline passage for your child if they do not have a mask or are in breach of their policy.

## The school day

The doors to the school building will open for the majority of students at 8:30 each day, Year 7 and 6<sup>th</sup> Form will be allowed to access the building from 8:20 and wait in The Refectory.

As there are no extra-curricular activities planned for the first three weeks of term, all students must leave site at 3:00pm. This will be reviewed as the term continues.

## Uniform

It has been lovely to see so many students returning to school smartly presented in appropriate uniform. We understand that some students are travelling to school by walking or bike and are thereby wishing to wear a jumper. A black v neck jumper is part of the uniform and is appropriate to wear under the blazer. Please remind your child that hoodies cannot be worn in school and are not to be used as coats.

### Nearly New School Uniform

A number of parents have contacted school to say that their child has grown out of last year's school uniform/school shoes/football boots/trainers etc. and because it is nearly new it is in good condition they have offered to donate it to school. If you would like to donate any nearly new school uniform including shoes or football boots could you please send them in a bag with your child. There is a collection point inside the student entrance. All of this uniform is sent to F.U.S.S and is available for free and you can contact them via the attached link <https://wirralfuss.co.uk/>

### Face Masks

Although face masks in corridors and communal areas are not mandatory in schools in England, we have advised both staff and children they are able to wear masks if they feel more comfortable. Face masks must be worn on buses. If the national guidance changes we will advise as appropriate.

### Visitors to school

Clearly, we are trying to minimise the number of face to face meetings/discussions thereby visitors including parents will not be permitted to enter the school building for at least the first term of this year.

If you wish to speak to your child's teacher/form tutor or head of year please email [admin@nestonhigh.com](mailto:admin@nestonhigh.com) and your details will be passed to the relevant member of staff who will contact you.

We understand that you wish your child to be prepared for their school day but occasionally there is a need for items to be dropped off. Unfortunately **we cannot accept any items at the school office** and there is an opportunity to teach our students to be prepared and packed the night before and ensure they have everything they need with them.

Finally thank you to all parents and carers for supporting your children to return to school this week.

Have a lovely weekend.

Yours sincerely

K Simpson  
Headteacher