

# The Rochester Grammar School

Dear parent / carer,

I hope you and your family are safe and well. It has been a long and strange Term 6 for all members of our school community during this time so I would like to thank everyone again for their continued support.

As you may be aware, the Government released their guidance for opening to all Year groups from September and we have been working very hard to reflect and plan for welcoming back all children in the new academic year.

We are now in a position to be able to share a summary of the principles for opening to all children in September.



As we prepare to increase our provision in school, we have been working closely with our Trust and following government advice to ensure the safest way to welcome back our students. As a school we have successfully met the Government expectations for children returning to school based learning in Years 10 and 12 and we are now in a position to apply similar principles to welcoming back all year groups.

The information here will help you understand how the return to school based learning will happen and answer some of the questions you may have.

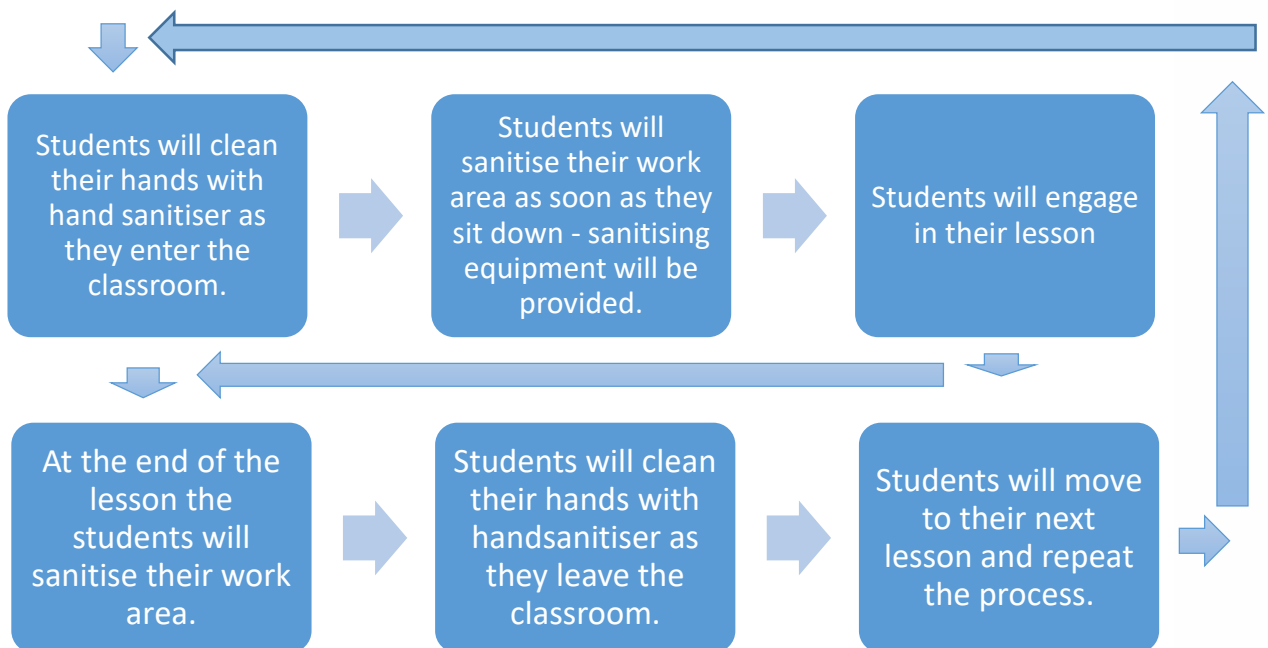
As throughout the return to school based learning during Term 6, we will be continuing to work to our belief that Child First = Child Safe = Adult Safe. This has been the key principle that has guided our planning since lockdown began and we are pleased with how well it worked and was understood by everyone in our school community.



## How will we achieve Child Safe?

At the heart of our strategy to keep everyone safe will be the concept of the Year Group Bubble. Each child will be part of a consistent bubble made up of their Year group or the Sixth Form. There will be no mixing of children between these bubbles.

To help manage the Year Group Bubbles we are introducing additional measures that will allow students to move from safe space to safe space throughout the day with their bubbles – this will be achieved through the protocol of ‘Clean, Use, Clean’:

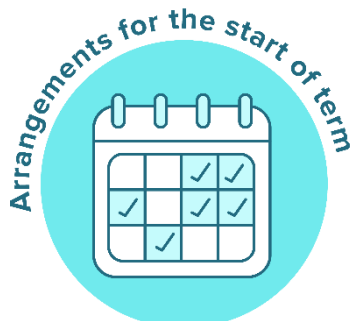


Teachers will be, where appropriate, situated as they would have been pre-covid, in a base classroom with limited movement between classes during the school day.

I have outlined below some of the other considerations and broad principles that we expect to be in operation.



# The Rochester Grammar School



## 1. Arrangements for the start of term

We will provide a full time education provision for all children 5 days a week. The Government expect all children to return in September and we have planned carefully to ensure that we are able to welcome them all back safely.

To support our children and families to return to school and to allow us to train our staff in our new protocols and processes Monday 7<sup>th</sup> and Tuesday 8<sup>th</sup> September will now be staff training days. We are operating a staggered return to start the new academic year. These Year group bubbles will return on the following days:

Wednesday 9 <sup>th</sup> September	Thursday 10 <sup>th</sup> September	Friday 11 <sup>th</sup> September
Year 7 Year 12	Year 8 Year 9 Year 10  (Years 7 and 12 also in school)	Year 11 Year 13  (Years 7,8,9,10,12 also in school)

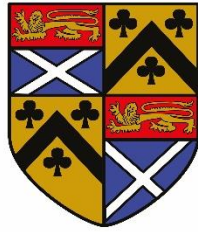
As students will not receive their timetable until their first day back we will contact you before September with guidance on which rooms students should attend for their induction on Day 1.



## 2. Arrangements for the school day:

To reduce the number of times students move around the school we will be operating a three-lesson school day, each lesson will be 100 minutes long.

To support social distancing students must observe social distancing while entering and leaving the school site.



# The Rochester Grammar School

At the start of the school day students should go straight to their lesson 1 classroom where they will have form time and be registered by their Period 1 teacher. Any Sixth Form student who has a study period during Period 1 should attend the ILC for registration.

There will be no whole school assemblies or non-essential external school trips taking place throughout the Autumn Term to ensure that we do not have large gatherings, however we will be working to use any technology available to us to come together and 'visit' places virtually.

Break and lunchtimes will be staggered so that the Year Group Bubbles do not mix. We will be offering a hot meal option as usual, alternatively students can bring their own snack and lunch.



### 3. School Rules

When we return in September, we will expect our children to return in full school uniform. Wearing the correct uniform is important to our identity and school community and we recognise the importance of establishing our school as a family of learners together and uniform is integral to this.

All normal school rules will apply as well as additional expectations around behaviour in corridors and the maintenance of social distancing. If students choose to ignore these expectations then the school will apply the normal range of sanctions.

We would encourage students to bring in their own stationery in a plastic based pencil case.



# The Rochester Grammar School



## 4. Safety & Cleaning

Ensuring that our school is kept clean is a key part of our plan. This means regular deep cleaning of all shared spaces including classrooms, corridors, IT suites and toilets. We will put in place a “cleaning habit routine” at the start and end of every lesson in every classroom that is being used – see above.

Hand sanitizer will be the principle means of securing hand hygiene and will be available across the school.

Public Health England does not (based on current evidence) recommend the use of face coverings in schools. This evidence will be kept under review. They are not required in schools as pupils and staff are mixing in consistent groups, and because misuse may inadvertently increase the risk of transmission. There may also be negative effects on communication and thus education. Therefore, facemasks are not to be worn in school.

As a result of these measures we believe we will be able to provide a safe learning environment for your children and we look forward to welcoming them all back in September.

## Managing Sickness & Reporting

Please remember that you must not send your child to school if they are unwell or displaying any symptoms of Covid-19.

We are going beyond the government advice regarding Track & Trace to ensure the highest safety for our community. Therefore, any member of our school community that is displaying symptoms must self-isolate and be tested. In the event of a positive test result, we will inform Public Health England and require all students identified as being within prolonged close proximity to the infected person to isolate for 14 days.



# The Rochester Grammar School

Finally, I would like to take this opportunity to thank our children, parents/carers, staff and governors for their support over the last term and indeed since the pandemic impacted on our usual ways of teaching and learning. Together we have overcome some great challenges and we are proud of what we have achieved.

Should there be any further changes to Government guidance over the summer break, we will of course respond as best as we can, however in the meantime, I would like to thank you again and wish you a safe and restful summer break.

I hope you have found this update useful. Further information will be following throughout the summer.

Yours sincerely,

Clare Brinklow

**Principal**