

LH/JG

26th August 2020

Dear Parents/Carers,

I am writing to remind you about the arrangements for the start of term. You will find attached another copy of the letter that was sent at the end of term and additionally a copy of a pupil document which outlines how school will look in the new term.

Pupils will receive a paper copy in September and Form teachers will be going through this in detail so all pupils understand what is expected of them and how school has changed. However, I thought some pupils may prefer to have a look at the document early, so I am sending you a copy today.

We understand many of you and your children will be feeling anxious about returning school, and I wanted to reassure you that we continue to make the wellbeing of all our staff and pupils a priority, and as such will take our time on induction in the first few days. Pupils will be encouraged to ask if they are unsure of anything and told where support is available.

As the guidance on masks changed overnight, and following a review in school, we have decided that it will **be mandatory for all pupils to wear a mask when on corridors, queuing for food in the dining rooms and in the pupil toilets**, as these are areas where pupils from different year groups may mix.

In addition all staff will be wearing visors and/or masks at the same time. I realise Rossendale is no longer in a local lockdown, however many of our staff live in areas which are, and we are mindful that the guidance is likely to change again. My view is that it is better to get pupils used to wearing masks from the start of term, so that it becomes part of the routine from day 1. I hope it will make everyone feel safer as they move around school.

I would also like to reiterate that no pupils will be in trouble for any incomplete work from the lockdown period, September is a fresh start for all.

It may be as we work the timetable through for the first time that we need to make amendments to how things are organised, pupils themselves may notice things we have not thought about and I would encourage them to speak up if this is the case.

If any child shows symptoms of the virus, we will contact you to collect them from school, and will be following NHS guidance on quarantine time should any pupil test positive.

I will continue to update you as anything changes and intend to continue to send a weekly message home to share what has been happening in school, as this was valued during lockdown.

Pupils should return at the following times:

- **Thursday 3rd September: Year 7 and Year 12 only at 8.50am for a 9.00am start**
- **Friday 4th September: All years at 8.50am for a 9.00am start**

The first two days will be for induction, lessons begin on **Monday 7th September.**

It is worth noting that the school building will not be open early for pupils for the foreseeable future, breakfast will be available from the new 'snack shack,' in the quad from 8.45am but doors to the building will not be open until 8.55am. The same applies to the sixth form building. **Therefore pupils should not arrive on the school site before 8.45am.**

I would also urge you to encourage your children to bring a weather-proof coat to school as we will be outside at breaks and lunchtimes wherever possible.

As ever, should you have any concerns, queries or worries, please get in touch.

Yours faithfully,



Jo Griffiths
Headteacher
jgriffiths@aldergrange.lancs.sch.uk