



“Success For All”

**NETHERHALL  
LEARNING CAMPUS  
HIGH SCHOOL**

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## Re-opening of Netherhall Learning Campus High School

17<sup>th</sup> July 2020

Dear Parent/Carer,

As you will be aware, the Department for Education released their guidance to schools last week to support the preparation for having all children back in school in September. We have been working with this guidance to finalise what this will look like for children when they return to Netherhall.

Our key priorities are:

- **Keeping all children safe and managing inevitable risk associated with a return**
- **Returning all students to a full, broad and balanced curriculum**
- **Returning all students to as much ‘normality’ as possible to support wellbeing and academic progress**

We have worked on the principle that we want our students to return to as much normality as possible, whilst taking absolute precautions regarding their health and safety. There are many measures being taken by schools nationally and each school will approach the guidance in the way that suits them best. You will therefore see many different reopening models across Kirklees as well as nationally. We believe that we should do all that we can to ensure that our students get the same broad, balanced and deep curriculum that they would normally have in school. We will therefore be putting students back into all of their normal lessons with their normal teaching staff, ensuring that no subjects are missed out. In September, the students will be assessed using classwork, green zone, topic assessments, student discussions and book work. The staff will then analyse this information in order to implement intervention and catch up work in order to close learning gaps. As soon as these personalised plans are in place for the students, we will notify you as parents and carers.

### Remote Learning Strategy

Although we are very much looking forward to our students returning to as much normality in school as possible, we have to also acknowledge the risk that a second lockdown may occur and that we may have a number of students self-isolating during the Autumn term. We will therefore be ensuring that we have a Remote Learning Strategy in place to support students in both of these circumstances.

We will be using both Oak National Academy, endorsed by the Department for Education as well as our current online platforms to provide students with lessons that are aligned to lessons in school, so as to minimise gaps in learning. We will use the SIMs Parent and student app to inform and update this work for students to complete it. In September, we will write to all parents to give more details about our Remote Learning Strategy, provide tutorials on the website to support parent understanding and we will also educate students in school of expectations and support. In order to support our students, you will be receive a form to complete via text message in September, to ascertain what devices you have in your home to access remote learning. We will be using this information to ascertain which of our students do not have access to ICT and how we can support as a school.

## Return to school

Whilst staggered starts to the day were considered, this meant that timetables would be disrupted and it would also cause challenges for families where siblings travel to school together. We will however be altering the school day start and finish times in order to ease the congestion and reduce the risk contact. The first week and subsequent weeks are outlined below:-

Week 1				
Year	Start Date	Start Time	Finish Time	Activity
7	Tuesday 8 <sup>th</sup> September	8:30	12:30	Tutor based Return to NLC programme
7	Tuesday 8 <sup>th</sup> September	9:00	13:00	
7	Tuesday 8 <sup>th</sup> September	9:30	13:30	
7	Tuesday 8 <sup>th</sup> September	10:00	14:00	
7	Tuesday 8 <sup>th</sup> September	10:30	14:30	
7	Tuesday 8 <sup>th</sup> September	11:00	15:00	
All Year 7 & 11	Wednesday 9 <sup>th</sup> September	8:50	14:50	8:50-11:10 Return to NLC programme 11:10 onwards Timetabled lessons
All Year 7 & 11	Thursday 10 <sup>th</sup> September	8:50	14:50	8:50-11:10 Return to NLC programme 11:10 onwards Timetabled lessons
All Year 8	Thursday 10 <sup>th</sup> September	8:45	14:45	
All Year 7, 9 & 11	Friday 11 <sup>th</sup> September	8:50	14:50	8:50-11:10 Return to NLC programme 11:10 onwards Timetabled lessons
All Year 8 & 10	Friday 11 <sup>th</sup> September	8:45	14:45	
Week 2 onwards				
Year		Start Time	Finish Time	Activity
Year 7, Year 9 & Year 11		8:50	14:50	Timetabled lessons
Year 8 & Year 10		8:45	14:45	Timetabled lessons

There is a need to limit the contact that students have with each other in order to adhere to the health and safety guidance. We will therefore be supporting students to remain in 'year group bubbles' whilst in school. Staff will obviously cross these bubbles due to teaching across all year groups. Wherever possible, they will keep a 2 metre distance from the students in the classroom. Rest assured though, if we have an emergency and our students need staff support, we will prioritise the need to help our children over the 2 metre rule. It would be naïve to suggest that our students can be in school and never come into contact with a student from another year group, but we do feel that we can work hard to ensure that wherever possible, they are only in contact with their own year group. There are a number of measures that have been put into place to ensure that happens, including:

- A strict one-way system around school designed to keep students travelling in year groups <https://www.nlconline.org.uk/return-to-school-information/>
- Ensure all classes and interventions are taught with only single year groups in the room
- All classrooms will only have the necessary furniture in them in order to support students being socially distanced in the classroom. They will be taught facing the front. <https://www.nlconline.org.uk/return-to-school-information/>
- A new menu and serving area is being constructed over the summer to increase the capacity of the canteen <https://www.nlconline.org.uk/return-to-school-information/>
- Staggered lunchtimes for each year group so that they have lunch in their bubbles <https://www.nlconline.org.uk/return-to-school-information/>
- Social areas for each year group so that they only socialise in their bubbles <https://www.nlconline.org.uk/return-to-school-information/>
- Cleaning down of all resources and tables after each lesson to avoid cross contamination
- Sanitisation stands to ensure that students can keep their hands clean at all times

- 'Catch it, bin it, kill it' mantra for cleanliness and increased number of bins, tissues and wipes in school
- Cleaning routines for resources in practical areas such as sport and technology
- Year group specific toilets to ensure that students are using sanitary facilities in bubbles
- Ventilation increases across the site
- SIMs pay will be our preferred method for the canteen to avoid the transfer of cash in school. An invitation will be sent to you by email with further information and instructions.

Please can you encourage **students to bring a packed lunch to school if at all possible**. This will allow us to place less pressure on the canteen during our bubble lunches.

Please can you ensure that our students have a full range of equipment that they bring to school each day in their bag. This will ensure that we can limit the sharing of resources in school.

On the days that students have PE on their timetable, they should attend school in their **full PE kit**, in line with the uniform booklet and remain in it for the day. This is so that we are not asking the students to be confined in changing rooms. We will also have PE lessons outdoors, wherever possible.

Unfortunately, for the first term, we will not be able to have large gatherings in school so our assemblies and drop down days cannot be done in year groups or as a whole school. However, we will be using the technology that we have in school to ensure that our assemblies go ahead over interactive screens in each classrooms.

A flowchart has been devised for you to follow should your child show symptoms of or test positive for the virus. The flowchart will be displayed in key areas of school including the reception area. It will also include information about Track and Trace should families need support with this.

The guidance from the DfE confirms that PPE is not necessary in the school building for staff and students, unless it is ordinarily used. However, students who are travelling to school using public transport will need to wear face masks. Therefore, students will need to remove their face mask on entry to the school, touching only the ear pieces of the mask and either disposing of the mask in the bin, or storing it in a plastic bag in their school bag for home time.

In terms of students travelling to school, we ask all students to consider walking or cycling if it is safe to do so. We are also asking parents wherever possible to bring students to school by car. However, we totally understand that some students will need to travel by public transport to get to school. We are expecting updates from Local Transport throughout the summer and we will keep you updated as parents as much as we can.

### **Visiting school**

We are clearly focused on reducing the contact of staff and students in school to minimise risk. I hope that you agree that there is always a very warm feel to Netherhall where our community is warmly welcome to visit and spend time with us. During this period though, we need to ask parents to refrain from 'calling in' and to make sure that you make an appointment to visit school. You are of course always welcome and we understand that there will be occasions when you need to come into school. Making an appointment will allow us to manage the flow of people through school and will ensure that meetings are socially distanced.

In order to make things easier for our parents and carers during this time, we will endeavour to make online meetings available at all times. I have ensured that during the first two weeks of term, I am available for parents should you wish to meet me online and discuss the reopening and any questions that you may have. If you need to make an appointment, please do so as always through our reception staff, who can book these in for you.

## Attendance

I really hope that the measures that we have talked about in this letter serve to reassure you as parents that we are doing all that we can to keep our children safe and socially distanced whilst also ensuring that they have a normal timetable with specialist staff to close their gaps in learning. You may have seen from the guidance that the government expects all children to return to school and that they have asked schools to reinstate penalties for non-attendance. We are so proud of the work that both parent and the school have done to improve the attendance and do not want to see this go to waste. We do understand though that you will be very nervous about the return and our children may need some time to adjust. For those who are self-isolating or have tested positive, this will be an authorised absence. We have also taken the decision that **we will not be fining for absence in the first term** of the year to allow for the safe and calm reintegration of our students.

When the students return to us, the first day/week in the majority will be spent with their form tutor, engaging in our Wellbeing and return to NLC programme. This will be a day/week of activities that are focused on their wellbeing, their time away from us and how they feel about their return to school. It will also be designed to give students a toolkit to support their mental health as they transition back into school routines and life. We believe that by supporting students in this way, we can help them to be better prepared for their academic studies going forward.

We have also increased our counselling support service in school so that students who need additional mental health support, will be able to access it.

In order to support our transparency with parents and carers, we have placed our risk assessment on the website. But I must remind you that at this present time the situation is constantly changing and the it is a working document.

## Entry and Exit points to school

The first day back for each year group and their specific entry and exit points are shown in the following table:

Year Group	Entry/Exit Points
Year 7	Main reception
Year 8	Music Entrance (new entrance – work being completed over summer)
Year 9	Red/Green door (next to Maths)
Year 10	Canteen Corridor (new entrance – work being completed over summer)
Year 11	Core Entrance (new entrance – work being completed over summer)

Our Senior leaders and staff team will be on the entrance points to welcome the students back, provide a friendly face and support them with finding their way. When the students enter the school, they should go directly to their form room.

The lockdown has shown us that the situation is ever changing and often very fast paced decisions need to be made when we are updated about local or national outbreaks. All of the measures discussed above have been put in place with the information that we currently have. It may be that, should the situation change, we need to adapt or change some of these measures. If that happens, we will do our best to keep you updated as parents.

As teachers and leaders, we are human and can only do our absolute best in very challenging times. As the term progresses, we will monitor the effectiveness of the measures and adapt them should we need to. We will be relying on our students to follow the new measures with the maturity and kindness that we know that they have in abundance! I ask for your patience and your understanding that no measures will be perfect or totally risk free, but our aim will be to create a calm, secure and happy environment for our students on their return.

Finally, thank you for your patience and support over the last few weeks and indeed months. We are so looking forward to welcoming our students back and wish you all a happy and safe summer.

Yours sincerely

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Michael Kent', written in a cursive style.

Michael Kent  
**Principal**