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Return to School: September 2021

Dear Parent or Carer

It feels like only yesterday since we were looking forward to the summer and here we are, getting ready for the return to school. I wanted to write to you to update you on the latest guidance, the current infection and vaccine rates, and also the precautions that we are taking to make it as safe as possible for everyone. I would also like to take this opportunity to explain some changes to the way we have organised the through school.

Latest Guidance

As I am sure you will be aware, the guidance to schools from the Government has changed since July. There are changes to the safety measures we have in school and changes to guidance around how to manage positive cases in schools and isolation.

Safety Measures

Currently, infection rates are very high in the local area – higher than national. We also have a lower than national vaccination rate. We have made the school as safe as possible, with strong routines that we need your support with in making sure that these are followed. We are continuing to have:

- A one-way system to ensure that students move around the building calmly and orderly – both in Primary and Secondary
- Handwashing stations on entry and hand sanitiser in the classrooms
- Extra ventilation systems in the classrooms

In Secondary:

- 1) Face coverings – these will be worn in communal areas indoors and will be optional in classrooms.
- 2) Testing – for those who have given consent, students will be tested twice in the first week in school and then twice a week at home. Should you need any tests then please contact the school.

Further safety measures

We are hoping that these measures will be enough in school to keep it safe. However, we will be in continual communication with Public Health throughout the term. Should we need to, we will introduce further safety measures in order to keep students, staff and families safe.

Isolation

We will no longer be contacting you about any positive cases in school. The new guidance says that anybody under 18 or has been double vaccinated, no longer needs to isolate if they have been in close contact with a positive case. National track and trace will contact anyone who has been in close contact and they should take a PCR test. Isolation only occurs if this is positive.

Primary

The Halifax Academy
 Spring Hall Lane, Halifax HX1 4TW
 T. 01422 430480
 E. primary@thehalifaxacademy.org
 Head of Primary: Richard Shaw



Secondary

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The guidance we have been given from Public Health to give to anyone who has been a close contact is:

- 1) To limit close contact with other people outside your household, especially in enclosed spaces.
- 2) To wear a face covering in enclosed spaces and where they are unable to maintain social distancing
- 3) To limit contact with anyone who is clinically extremely vulnerable or hasn't had a vaccination
- 4) To take part in regular LFD testing

We will also be texting a letter to families with advice if we are aware that their child has been a close contact with a positive case.

Hopefully with these measures we can keep the building as safe as possible and I appreciate the support that you have shown and will show us with this.

What do I do if my child is feeling unwell?

If your child is feeling unwell with the following symptoms:

- Persistent new cough
- High temperature
- Flu like symptoms
- Loss of smell or taste

Then they must stay at home until you have had a PCR test. If the test comes back positive, then the child will need to isolate. If it is negative and they are feeling well enough – they can return to school.

September 2021 Return to School

Students will return to school starting from the 7th September. Secondary School students who we have consent for, will be tested on their first day and again in the second week.

For the **first week**, we will be implementing a staggered return. Each year group will only come into school on the days listed below, with a prompt 8:20am start in Secondary and an 8:25am start in Primary:

Day	Year Groups	Start Time
Tuesday 7 th September	5, 6 and 7	8:20am
Wednesday 8 th September	2, 3, 4, 8 and 9	8:20am
Thursday 9 th September	1, 10 and 11	8:20am
Friday 10 th September	All year groups	8:20am

From Friday 10th September onwards, all students will come into school every day as normal. If you have a child in Reception class, you will receive a separate communication about their return.

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Year	Site Entrance	Building Entrance
7	Pedestrian Gate – Gibbet Street (top of school site up towards Dicken's St)	PE Doors
8	Main Gate – Gibbet Street	PE Doors
9	Main Gate – Gibbet Street	Back of School
10	Spring Hall Lane	Back of School
11	Spring Hall Lane	Back of School

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Timings of the School Day – Primary

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Monday - Thursday

	Lesson 1	Lesson 2	Break/Assembly		Lesson 4	Lunch (5A)	Lesson 5B	Lesson 6
Reception	8.25 – 9.15	9.15 -10.35	10.35 -11.10		11.10 – 11.30	11.30 – 12.15	12.15 – 13.15	13.15 – 14.45
Year 1	8.25 – 10.00		10.00 - 10.15 Break	10.15 -11.30		11.30 – 12.15	12.15 – 13.30	13.30 – 14.45
Year 2	8.25 – 9.20	9.20 – 10.20	10.20 -10.40 Break	10.40-11.00 Assembly	11.00 – 11.40	11.40 – 12.25	12.25 – 13.30	13.30 – 14.45
Year 3	8.25 – 9.20	9.20 – 10.20	10.20 -10.40 Break	10.40-11.00 Assembly	11.00 – 11.50	11.50 – 12.35	12.35 – 13.30	13.30 – 14.45
Year 4	8.25 – 9.20	9.20 – 10.20	10.20 -10.40 Break	10.40 -11.00 Assembly	11.00 – 11.55	11.55 – 12.40	12.40 – 13.30	13.30 – 14.45
Year 5	8.25 – 9.20	9.20 – 10.20	10.20 -10.40 Assembly	10.40-11.00 Break	11.00 – 12.00	12.00 – 12.45	12.45 – 13.30	13.30 – 14.45
Year 6	8.25 – 9.20	9.20 – 10.20	10.20 -10.40 Assembly	10.40-11.00 Break	11.00 – 12.00	12.00 – 12.45	12.45 – 13.30	13.30 – 14.45

Friday

	Lesson 1	Lesson 2	Break/Assembly		Lesson 4	Lunch (5A)	Lesson 6
Reception	8.25 – 9.15	9.15 -10.35	10.35 -11.10		11.10 – 11.30	11.30 – 12.15	12.15 – 13.15
Year 1	8.25 – 10.00		10.00 - 10.15 Break	10.15 -11.30		11.30 – 12.15	12.15 – 13.15
Year 2	8.25 – 9.20	9.20 – 10.20	10.20 -10.40 Break	10.40-11.00 Assembly	11.00 – 11.40	11.40 – 12.25	12.25 – 13.15
Year 3	8.25 – 9.20	9.20 – 10.20	10.20 -10.40 Break	10.40-11.00 Assembly	11.00 – 11.50	11.50 – 12.35	12.35 – 13.15
Year 4	8.25 – 9.20	9.20 – 10.20	10.20 -10.40 Break	10.40 -11.00 Assembly	11.00 – 11.55	11.55 – 12.40	12.40 – 13.15
Year 5	8.25 – 9.20	9.20 – 10.20	10.20 -10.40 Assembly	10.40-11.00 Break	11.00 – 12.00	12.00 – 12.45	12.45 – 13.15
Year 6	8.25 – 9.20	9.20 – 10.20	10.20 -10.40 Assembly	10.40-11.00 Break	11.00 – 12.00	12.00 – 12.45	12.45 – 13.15

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Timings of the School Day - Secondary



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Monday

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	Lesson 1				Break/Character		Lesson 2					Lesson 3				
	8:20 - 8:50	8:50 - 9:20	9:20 - 9:50	9:50 - 10:20	10:20 - 10:40	10:40 - 11:00	11:00 - 11:30	11:30 - 12:00	12:00 - 12:30	12:30 - 13:00	13:00 - 13:30	13:30 - 14:00	14:00 - 14:30	14:30 - 15:00	15:00 - 15:30	
7	Lesson 1				Character	Break	Lesson 2				Lunch	Lesson 3				
8	Lesson 1				Character	Break	Lesson 2				Lunch	Lesson 3				
9	Lesson 1				Break	Character	Lesson 2		Lunch	Lesson 2		Lesson 3				
10	Lesson 1				Break	Character	Lesson 2		Lunch	Lesson 2		Lesson 3				
11	Lesson 1				Character	Break	Lesson 2				Lunch	Lesson 3				

Tuesday, Wednesday and Thursday

	Lesson 1				Break/Character		Lesson 2		Lesson 3				
	8:20 - 8:50	8:50 - 9:20	9:20 - 9:50	9:50 - 10:20	10:20 - 10:40	10:40 - 11:00	11:00 - 11:30	11:30 - 12:00	12:00 - 12:30	12:30 - 13:00	13:00 - 13:30	13:30 - 14:00	14:00 - 14:30
7	Lesson 1				Character	Break	Lesson 2		Lesson 3		Lunch	Lesson 3	
8	Lesson 1				Character	Break	Lesson 2		Lesson 3		Lunch	Lesson 3	
9	Lesson 1				Break	Character	Lesson 2		Lunch	Lesson 3			
10	Lesson 1				Break	Character	Lesson 2		Lunch	Lesson 3			
11	Lesson 1				Character	Break	Lesson 2		Lesson 3		Lunch	Lesson 3	

Friday

	Lesson 1				Break/Character		Lesson 2			
	8:20 - 8:50	8:50 - 9:20	9:20 - 9:50	9:50 - 10:20	10:20 - 10:40	10:40 - 11:00	11:00 - 11:30	11:30 - 12:00	12:00 - 12:30	12:30 - 13:00
7	Lesson 1				Character	Break	Lesson 2			
8	Lesson 1				Character	Break	Lesson 2			
9	Lesson 1				Break	Character	Lesson 2			
10	Lesson 1				Break	Character	Lesson 2			
11	Lesson 1				Character	Break	Lesson 2			

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Break and Lunchtime

- In Secondary, break and lunchtimes will return to a normal service in September, so having to pay weekly for grab bags will cease. All students have been assigned to a Lunch payment item in ParentPay, where you can add funds in whatever amount and however frequently you wish. Please continue to use ParentPay as we operate a cashless system. If your child is entitled to Free School Meals, these funds will be added to their account automatically.
- If you are having issues with your ParentPay account, please email the school office on: office@thehalifaxacademy.org

Contacting school

We are still limiting access to site.

- There will be no parent meetings on site without prior arrangement
- No cars will be allowed on site
- The best way to contact the school is via email. Please email the school using the relevant email with your child's name as the subject.
 - Y1@thehalifaxacademy.org
 - Y2@thehalifaxacademy.org
 - Y3@thehalifaxacademy.org
 - Y4@thehalifaxacademy.org
 - Y5@thehalifaxacademy.org
 - Y6@thehalifaxacademy.org
 - Y7@thehalifaxacademy.org
 - Y8@thehalifaxacademy.org
 - Y9@thehalifaxacademy.org
 - Y10@thehalifaxacademy.org
 - Y11@thehalifaxacademy.org

If you do need to phone school, please bear in mind that our lines can get extremely busy, so please leave a message on the answerphone so that we can get back to you.

Over the coming weeks we will be in touch with you about a new messaging/parent App, so please keep an eye out for these communications.

Finally, I would like to say well done to all those students who received grades this summer in both Y10 and Y11. They worked incredibly hard and they should be very proud of the grades they received.

I look forward to another successful year working with you all.

Yours sincerely

Mr Perry

Headteacher

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