



THINKING SCHOOLS ACADEMY TRUST

Friday 15th May. Important update re.Covid-19



Dear parent / carer,

I hope you and your family are safe and well. I am writing to you today to share with you some initial information for how we plan to welcome students in Year 10 and Year 12 safely back to school from June 1st. I will be writing to you again with further details next Wednesday. Students in other Year groups will continue to be supported with their distance learning and must stay at home unless they are the child of a Key Worker needing childcare, in which case they are permitted to come to school and we will provide childcare – I will write with further details of how this will run from 1st June next week.



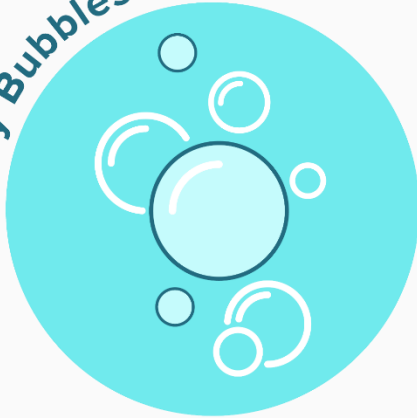
First of all, I want to share with you our belief that Child First = Child Safe = Adult Safe. This has been the key principle that has guided our planning since we began working on how to safely transition students back in to school based learning.

How will we achieve Child Safe?

At the heart of our strategy to keep everyone safe as they transition back to school based learning will be the concept of the “family bubble”. Each student will be part of a small, consistent “family bubble” with assigned staff who only work with students in that “family bubble”. Students are, therefore, protected from contact with any other student outside their “family bubble” whilst at school.

I will be writing to you next week to provide a detailed update for you on the measures we will put in place both within each “family bubble” and across our whole school to ensure we keep your child safe, however, I have outlined below some of the broad principles that we expect to be in operation.

Family Bubbles



1. Family Bubbles

We are creating Family Bubbles; a small family of students that your child will spend their time with whilst in school.

To help your child adapt to this new group they will always be with the same staff and students every day.

Bespoke Timetable



2. Bespoke Timetables

To help with social distancing and avoiding unnecessary contact with others we will be creating new timetables for the Bubbles. This will include set break & lunch times and scheduled use of facilities. I will be in a position to confirm details next week but this will likely include a staggered start and finish times for the school day.



3. Household Rules Apply

We are supportive of the Government self-isolation strategy. If a member of your child's bubble, student or staff, shows symptoms or tests positive for Covid-19 we will be asking everyone in that bubble to stay at home and self-isolate for 14 days.

As a result of these measures we believe we will be in a position to welcome students in Year 10 and 12 from 1st June, should you want this option. The school will continue to offer support for home learning opportunities for parents who decide not to take this option.

To prepare for this change and to allow our hard working staff the opportunity to have some time with their own families we have decided not to open during the half term break

Keeping our school clean

Ensuring that our school is kept clean is a key part of our plan. We are in active conversation with our facilities team to enhance our cleaning regime. This means a deep cleaning of all shared spaces including classrooms, corridors, IT suites and toilets.

The cleaning team will be working throughout the day, around the school time timetable, to proactively clean areas before and after classes have used them.

Why do we believe this is the right thing to do?

These are big changes for us all and I appreciate your understanding and support in transitioning into the “new normal”. We believe that these changes will help to protect everyone in the school from unnecessary exposure to others, whilst providing the school with an ability to proactively manage the ever-changing situation.

I hope you have found this update useful, further information will be following next week.

Yours sincerely,
Mandy Gage.
Director of Education, Chatham

Next update due 20th May



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