

19th August 2020

Dear Parent/Carer

As promised at the end of the summer term, I write with more information about the new term.

To help you access the information, some of the details in this letter are also contained with a video that you can watch online at www.limehurst.org.uk. You may find it useful to watch this with your child before they return to school.

I completely understand that some of you will be anxious about your child returning to school. I can assure you that safety will be our number one priority. We will ensure that the latest government guidelines are always followed. This will mean that school is going to feel very different for your child.

To go through all of the changes carefully, we are having a staggered start to term:

Wednesday 26 th August	Year 7	08:45 – 14:45	Tatmarsh entrance
Thursday 27 th August	Year 8	09:30 – 11:30	Tatmarsh entrance
	Year 9	12:30 – 14:30	Car Park entrance
Friday 28 th August	Year 10	09:30 – 11:30	Car Park entrance
	Year 11	12:30 – 14:30	Car Park entrance
Monday 31 st August	Bank Holiday		
Tuesday 1 st September	All students in full-time.		

Students **must** arrive at school on time, and no earlier than ten minutes before their allocated time.

There is more information in the rest of this letter. We are looking forward to welcoming your child back to Limehurst!

Yours sincerely

J Mellor
Headteacher

Start of Term

Because school is going to look and feel completely different to before, there are many new safety procedures that we are going to have to go through very carefully with the students. We are also conscious that the majority of our students will not have attended school for five months. We are therefore going to give each year group some dedicated time on their own in school at the beginning of term, as part of this reintegration will have to include, for example, tours of the site.

Therefore, we expect to see **only** the following year groups at the days and times given below:

Wednesday 26 th August	Year 7	08:45 – 14:45	Tatmarsh entrance
Thursday 27 th August	Year 8	09:30 – 11:30	Tatmarsh entrance
	Year 9	12:30 – 14:30	Car Park entrance
Friday 28 th August	Year 10	09:30 – 11:30	Car Park entrance
	Year 11	12:30 – 14:30	Car Park entrance
Monday 31 st August	Bank Holiday		
Tuesday 1 st September	All students in full-time. See next section!		

Times of School Day from 1st September

Students will continue to receive five one-hour lessons each day. There will also be a 15-minute break time and 30-minute lunchtime for each student, and year 7 students will have a 15-minute tutor period each morning. Students in different year groups will have different start and end times to avoid congestion and year groups mixing with each other where possible.

School-day times:

Year 7	08:45 – 14:45	Arrival time: 08:35 – 08:45 via the Tatmarsh gate
Year 8	09:00 – 14:45	Arrival time: 08:50 – 09:00 via the Tatmarsh gate
Years 9 & 10	09:00 – 14:45	Arrival time: 08:50 – 09:00 via the Car Park entrance
Year 11	10:00 – 15:45	Arrival time: 09:50 – 10:00 via the Car Park entrance

Zones

Years 7, 8 & 9 will be based in a zone consisting of five classrooms. All of their lessons (with the exception of PE) will be in this zone. Subject teachers will come to the students, rather than the more traditional model of students going to the teachers. Each year group will have a dedicated set of toilets.

Years 10 & 11 will have a larger zone to allow for the specialist rooms needed for some of their GCSE subjects. We will carefully go through all of this with your child on their first day.

Learning

Students in years 7, 8 and 9 will continue to study all areas of the curriculum while years 10 and 11 will start/continue with all of their exam subjects.

Our plans for practical PE lessons are still in development; we will confirm these with you at the beginning of term.

Uniform

All normal uniform expectations will apply. If you need to order new uniform for your child, you can do so [here](#).

On days where your child has a practical PE lesson (this will be made clear to them), they should come to school in their PE kit, as changing facilities will not be available to begin with. If require for warmth, they can continue to wear one of their Limehurst jumper, cardigan or blazer over the top when in classrooms. Other tops/jackets/hoodies will not be permitted to be worn in the classroom.

Personal hygiene and social distancing

Hand sanitiser will be widely available in school, although we would encourage students to bring their own small bottles. They will be required to sanitise their hands every time they enter a classroom. We will also be encouraging students to wash their hands thoroughly every two hours. We recommend that all students have a small packet of tissues with them each day, as shared tissue boxes in school increase the risk of spreading the virus.

Wherever possible social distancing will be in place. Students will be in class sizes of around 25 and will be sat side by side and facing forwards, rather than face to face or side on. This follows the current government advice for schools.

Government guidelines are clear that face masks should not be worn in schools by staff or students. However, we will not object if students or staff choose to wear one.

Attendance & Behaviour

All students are expected to return to school in the Autumn term. If you have any specific concerns which are not answered in our communications, please contact us. Punctuality will be extremely important, as different entrances will be open at different times, and we will need your help in reinforcing that point.

All of our efforts in keeping everybody safe are reliant on all parties following the expectations and showing regards for others. Our regular behaviour systems will be in place, but we will be extremely vigilant about any student who is compromising the safety of others.

Cashless Catering and Dining

We will be opening our catering facilities, but only at lunchtime – no food will be served at morning break. Students are, of course, welcome to bring their own snacks and/or packed lunches. The water fountains will not be in use and therefore students will need to bring their own bottle of water.

For the first few weeks of term, the food served in the canteen will be from a 'grab and go' offering. We will review this as the term progresses. **As part of our ongoing safeguarding measures, and also for hygiene reasons, we have decided to move to a completely cashless system from September. Students will no longer be able to pay cash into their accounts at school.** You must create an online account with School Gateway, which you can download as an app, or access online.

You can then top up credit online, and also view what your child is spending their money on. More details can be found by clicking [here](#) where you will find more information and a user guide. If you need any help setting up an account, please email ITSHelpdesk@limehurst.org.uk

SEN students

If your child has an EHCP, the SEN department will be in contact with you to discuss how best to support your child.

Travel to/from school

We appreciate that most of our students walk to school. However, remember that if your child uses public transport, a face mask is compulsory to travel.

Equipment

The guidance now states that, for individual and very frequently used equipment such as pencils, pens and rulers, students must have their own items that are not shared. Therefore, it is vital that your child comes to school with this basic equipment.

Essential	Desirable
Pens	Coloured pencils
Pencils	Highlighters
Ruler	Maths set
Eraser	Glue stick
Pencil sharpener	
Scientific calculator (particularly for GCSE students)	Packet of tissues
Filled water bottle	Small bottle of sanitiser

In accordance with safety guidance, water fountains in school are switched off.

It is still recommended that students limit the amount of equipment they bring into school each day, to essentials such as lunch boxes, hats, coats, books, stationery and mobile phones. Bags are allowed.

Illness

Your child **must not** attend school if

- they feel unwell, or
- if they have any COVID-19 symptoms, or
- if anyone in their household has COVID-19 symptoms.

Any child who displays symptoms of coronavirus (COVID-19) must get a test; they will not be allowed back into school otherwise. They can return to school:

- immediately if the test is negative
- after 10 days of self-isolation if the test is positive.

If another member of the household tests positive for COVID-19, your child must self-isolate (and not attend school) for 14 days.

In any of these situations, please telephone the school for further advice.

No visitors

To begin with, all communication with parents will be by telephone, text message or email.

It is crucial that we have a current email address, as school letters will be sent this way from now on. Therefore, please ensure that your details are correct on the school system, and notify us immediately of any changes.

Please do not come on to the school site at all, unless you have been asked to by a member of staff.

Staffing Changes

There have been some changes to make you aware of over the summer. Mr Lakhani, Mrs Gavriel and Mrs Kilner have all left us. Joining us are Miss Aldridge in English, and Mrs Coulson in MFL. We are also joined by Mrs Durant in IT Services and Mr Walton in the Premises team.

We have also restructured our Heads of Year team. The new configuration is:

Year 7	Mr Robinson
Year 8	Miss Pitt
Year 9	Mr Hoey
Year 10	Mr Simpson
Year 11	Mrs Armstrong

This means that 11PI will become 11CU (Miss Coulson) and 9HO will become 9GL (Mr Glover).