

Headteacher: Mr C Bell BSc (Hons) NPQH

Parents of Years 7 to 10 - Academic Year 2020 -2021

Dear Parent or Carer,

I write this letter with excitement and great anticipation. As you will know the government and, specifically, the Department for Education (DfE) have published guidance regarding the opening of schools to all pupils from September 2020. This document is incredibly detailed and we have been working hard to ensure that our plans for September strike the appropriate balance between providing an excellent education whilst ensuring all pupils and staff are safe.

Term starts on 3rd of September and, following on from the letter sent out to all parents from the local authority, there will be staggered start and finish times based on year groups. It is important to note that our new Year 7 pupils have had very little transition from primary school as they have been unable to spend any time at Parrenthorn High School. We recognise that for many young people stress and anxiety may have increased, and to help address some of this only Year 7 and Year 11 pupils will be in school on Thursday 3rd of September. Years 8, 9 and 10 will have two hours in school for some well needed pastoral time on Friday 4th September but please note there will be no school bus service on that day. By Monday 7th September, all pupils will resume lesson time. See below:

Year Group	Thursday 3 rd September	Friday 4 th September	Monday 7 th September
7	All Day	All Day	Normal Curriculum Day
8	Not in	8.30am – 10.30am	Normal Curriculum Day
9	Not in	10.45am – 12.45pm	Normal Curriculum Day
10	Not in	1.00pm – 3.00pm	Normal Curriculum Day
11	Start 11.10am	All Day	Normal Curriculum Day

Pupils must attend school on time in their full school uniform and bring a packed lunch and healthy snack, wherever possible. To manage risk at this time, we are not opening the canteen for break service and lockers are not to be used as they will be outside year group 'zones'. We will continuously review and revise our risk assessment throughout the autumn term.

One of the key elements of the guidance is wherever possible to try to keep pupils within their year group 'bubble'. To enable this we will introduce a staggered school day for each year group 'bubble'. This includes arriving at school, lesson time, break, lunch and the end of the school day. Therefore, all year groups will start and finish at slightly different times. However, this will not affect their ability to commute on the school bus. Buses will arrive at school before 8.20am and leave at 3.15pm. When available, the timetable will be on the school website. Each year group will enter school from various points and all pupils should go straight to period 1: Year 7 – Pupil Entrance; Years 8 and 10 – Music Entrance and Years 9 and 11 – Assembly Hall. See timetable below:

	Year 11	Year 10	Year 9	Year 8	Year 7
START	8.20	8.25	8.30	8.35	8.40
p1 (8.30 - 9.30)	p1	p1	p1	p1	p1
p2 (9.30 - 10.30)	p2	p2	p2	p2	p2
Break/Form (10.30 - 10.45)	Break	Break	Form	Form	Form
Break/Form (10.45 - 11.00)	Form	Form	Break	Break	Break
p3 (11.00 - 12.00)	p3	p3	p3	p3	p3
p4a/Lunch (12.00 - 1.00)	Canteen 12.00	Canteen 12.30	P4	P4	P4
Lunch/p4b (1.00 – 2.00)	P4	P4	Canteen 1.40	Canteen 1.20	Canteen 1.00
p5 (2.00 - 3.00)	p5	p5	p5	p5	p5
FINISH	2.50	2.55	3.00	3.05	3.10

We are planning our timetable so as to reduce pupil movement around school whilst ensuring that curriculum entitlement across both key stages continues, if not in quite the same format. For example, the use of equipment in various subject areas may be minimised in order to allow for cleaning and contact sport in physical education (PE) is forbidden. Pupils will also be asked to wipe down keyboards after use to enhance our cleaning regime. The changing rooms will not be in use and so on the days that pupils have PE, they must wear their kit and not their school uniform. Assemblies will not take place but we will ensure that delivery of our pastoral education continues to be a strength.

Please note that we have been advised by the DfE that the guidance will be reviewed on 11th August and so some of our plans may have to change or at least evolve throughout the academic year 2020-2021.

I realise that the vast majority of our pupils have been working remotely since 20th March. Completing tasks and working on assignments and projects is very difficult without face-to-face teaching and I thank each and every one of our pupils and their parents/carers for all the hard work and dedication shown over the last 16 weeks. Some pupils may well be behind in certain subject areas and should try to complete outstanding work over the summer, whilst making sure there is plenty of time for a break. However, although we are planning, in September, to ensure teaching supports rapid progress in order to move forward after some of the curriculum time has been lost during the pandemic, it is essential that all stakeholders including parents, carers, pupils, staff and governors remain positive. I want to reassure you all as parents that staff at Parrenthorn High School will work hard to support pupils emotionally, deepen knowledge and develop the learning of all of our children.

Please note – we have launched our new app SCHOOL GATEWAY. All school related communication, newsletters, reports, timetables, attendance figures and payments will go through School Gateway. If not already done so and to stay up to date with what's going on at Parrenthorn, please download the FREE app.

Apple iPhone: schoolgateway.co.uk/iosdownload

Android: schoolgateway.co.uk/androiddownload

Your login details will automatically be generated using the correct information already held by school so please ensure the details are correct and up to date. If you would like any further information, please see the School Gateway site at <https://schoolgateway.co.uk/>

As you are aware the upper school tie is a different design to that of lower school. Pupils in current Year 9 moving into Year 10 will need to purchase the relevant upper school House tie before they return to school in September. Ties can be purchased online through our uniform supplier Macron store at www.macronmanchester.co.uk. Alternatively you can visit their shop in Bury, Unit 1A, Off Bright St, Bury, BL9 6AQ.

Finally, thank you for all of your support during what has been the most challenging of times and I look forward to seeing pupils and parents during the autumn term.

Take care and keep safe.

Kind Regards



Chris Bell
(Headteacher)