



Dear Parents/Carers

Re: Return to school and a welcome from the new Headteacher

A warm welcome to the new academic year from everybody at Abbot Beyne School. I am delighted to have taken up the role as Headteacher of this wonderful school and I look forward to getting to meet many of you over the coming months. This letter sets out the details for the return to school for students and should be read in conjunction with the letter sent home prior to the summer holidays which is available on the school website at <http://abbotbeyne.staffs.sch.uk/school-information/school-letters/>. Please ensure that your son /daughter is made fully aware of the changes to the school day and the behaviour policy that are detailed in this letter.

We recognise that the return to school will be difficult for students and parents and as such we have put significant additional support in place. We have implemented a series of extra safety features before, during and after school. We have increased the level of pastoral care and safeguarding for all students and developed enhanced mentor programmes to include a greater focus on mental health. We have reviewed our curriculum and schemes of learning so that we can maximise the progress of every student so that no student misses out.

As published before summer, we have a staggered start to the school year for students in different year groups to support their transition back to school life, the details of which are shown below:

Thursday 3rd September School opens for Year 7 and Year 12 at 08:30
Friday 4th September School opens for Year 7 at 08:30 and Year 10 at 08:45. Year 13 should check their email for their time to come and collect their timetable.
Monday 7th September All students return to school at the times shown below

In accordance with DfE guidelines we have put a slightly altered timetable in place for each year group including staggered starts and finishes to the school day, the details of which are given in the table below:

	Year 7	Year 8	Year 9	Year 10	Year 11	Years 12 and 13
Start of day	08:30	08:45	08:30	08:45	08:30	09:00
Break	10:35	10:25	10:35	10:25	10:35	10:40
Period 2	11:00	10:50	11:00	10:50	11:00	11:00
Lunch	12:40	12:20	12:40	12:20	12:40	12:40
Period 3	13:20	13:10	13:20	13:10	13:20	13:20
Home	15:00	15:10	15:00	15:10	15:00	15:00

These changes will be in place for at least the first half term of the academic year and will be reviewed frequently in line with the most up to date government guidance. On top of this the following changes are also in place:

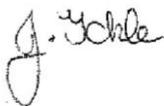
- Break times will be in year group zones with no access to the canteen at break time
- Year 8 and Year 10 will have mentoring at the end of the school day
- Years 12 and Year 13 will not have mentoring
- We ask that students only attend school at the appropriate time and leave school promptly at the end of the school day
- Year group bubbles will be formed with students remaining in the same classroom for the majority of their lessons
- Handwashing will be in place before the start of every lesson and classrooms will be cleaned before every lesson
- Students must have all of their own equipment for school and wear full school uniform
- Students are strongly encouraged to walk, scoot or cycle to school

It still remains that those students or parents with Covid symptoms, or those that have people at home with Covid symptoms, must stay away from school. Please ensure we have up to date contact details, including phone numbers and email addresses so we can contact you immediately should your child show any Covid symptoms. We are seeing updated advice around the use of face masks. As such we are going to tell pupils – “The government advice is that face masks are not necessary in schools. However, if you feel more comfortable moving around the school site wearing a mask then you can.” Please discuss this with your child before their first day back, and most importantly, discuss the safe use of facemasks.

At this time, I would like to take this opportunity to thank the outgoing Headteacher, Annabel Stoddart. She demonstrated incredible commitment and leadership over a number of years. I want to personally thank her for her support over the last half term during my handover. My vision is for Abbot Beyne School to be an outstanding school whilst maintaining the students' best interests at our core. Having experience of leading two successful schools, one in Nottingham and one in Leicester, I am certain we have the building blocks here to achieve this goal. By working together as a whole community, we can ensure that when students leave the school they are fully equipped to become valued and valuable members of a global community. I believe that through collaboration and a relentless drive for improvement we can fulfil the potential of every student at the school.

If you have any concerns about your child returning to school or if we can help in any way, please do not hesitate to contact the school. For Year 8 parents we will be in touch regarding the purchase of iPads for your son/daughter if you have not done this already. I am sure it will be a highly successful year and remember, attendance matters, every day counts.

Yours sincerely



Jamie Tickle
Headteacher