



## INFORMATION FOR PARENTS –

### PHASED RETURN TO SCHOOL FROM 15 JUNE 2020

Dear Parent/Carer

Thank you for working with us to continue to provide some education to your child during the time that they have been away from school. I appreciate that this may have introduced some challenge and pressure into your lives, but I also hope that you may have shared some enjoyable learning experiences.

As you know, the government has asked secondary schools to open to more pupils, from 15 June. This letter will provide you with some detail about how we will approach this at Saffron Valley.

#### At SVC we will:

- Invite year 11 pupils in for pre-arranged meetings with their year 11 mentors, so that they can be supported to transition to year 12;
- Have groups of year 10 pupils on site at KS4 N, KS4 S, Cotelands and Springboard
- Have groups of year 9 pupils on site at KS3, to support their transition to KS4 provisions.

Some of you may be worried about sending your child to school. I want to reassure you that our senior staff have been involved in a great deal of practical planning to ensure that everything is prepared for your child to make the safest possible return to school. Things will look different, and it may take a little time for them to adjust to new procedures. I ask for your help in preparing your son/daughter, by discussing some of the contents of this letter with them. You will know your child best, and will have a sense of what they may need to know, before they return to us.

**This is a fast moving situation, with new information and resources being circulated on a weekly, and sometimes daily, basis. It may well be that some of the detail in this letter will have changed by the time pupils return to school. Please accept this as a general guideline.**

**You will shortly receive further detail from your son/daughter's Head of Provision, which will tell you exactly when they will be expected to attend school.**

#### The government's strategy for keeping the school community safe

This will involve:

- minimising contact with individuals who are unwell by ensuring that those who have coronavirus symptoms, or who have someone in their household who does, do not attend school. **Please carefully read the guidance below.**
- cleaning hands more often than usual - wash hands thoroughly for 20 seconds with running water and soap and dry them thoroughly or use alcohol hand rub or sanitiser ensuring that all parts of the hands are covered. **Your child will be asked to wash their hands frequently throughout the day.**



- ensuring good respiratory hygiene by promoting the 'catch it, bin it, kill it' approach
- cleaning frequently touched surfaces often using standard products, such as detergents and bleach
- minimising contact and mixing by altering, as much as possible, the environment (such as classroom layout) and timetables (such as staggered break times). **Your son/daughter will be allocated to a small group and will not mix with other groups. This will create 'a small, protective bubble around them'.**

### What do we know about the virus?

The most common symptoms of coronavirus (COVID-19) are recent onset of any of the following:

- a new continuous cough
- a high temperature
- a loss of, or change in, your normal sense of taste or smell (anosmia)

### What should you do if someone in your household develops symptoms?

**Your child should not come to school.**

- If you live with others and you are the first in the household to have symptoms of coronavirus (COVID-19), then you must stay at home for at least 7 days, but all other household members who remain well must stay at home and not leave the house for **14 days**. The 14-day period starts from the day when the first person in the house became ill.
- For anyone else in the household who starts displaying symptoms, they need to stay at home for at least 7 days from when the symptoms appeared, regardless of what day they are on in the original 14 day isolation period.
- Staying at home for 14 days will greatly reduce the overall amount of infection the household could pass on to others in the community.
- If you can, move any vulnerable individuals (such as the elderly and those with underlying health conditions) out of your home, to stay with friends or family for the duration of the home isolation period.
- If you cannot move vulnerable people out of your home, stay away from them as much as possible.
- Reduce the spread of infection in your home: wash your hands regularly for 20 seconds, each time using soap and water, or use hand sanitiser; cover coughs and sneezes.
- If you have coronavirus (COVID-19) symptoms do **not** go to a GP surgery, pharmacy or hospital
- If you feel you cannot cope with your symptoms at home, or your condition gets worse, or your symptoms do not get better after 7 days, then use the NHS 111 online coronavirus (COVID-19) service. If you do not have internet access, call NHS 111. For a medical emergency dial 999
- If you develop new coronavirus (COVID-19) symptoms at any point after ending your first period of isolation (self or household) then you need to follow the same guidance on self-isolation again



## Testing

Anyone with symptoms of coronavirus - experiencing a new, continuous cough; high temperature; or a loss of, or change, in their normal sense of smell or taste (anosmia) – is now eligible to book a test.

A coronavirus test can be booked online at:

<https://www.nhs.uk/conditions/coronavirus-covid-19/>

The government now has Test-and-Trace methods in place.

## What happens if my child becomes unwell whilst they are at school?

If anyone becomes unwell with a new, continuous cough or a high temperature in an education or childcare setting, they must be sent home and advised to follow the COVID-19: guidance for households with possible coronavirus infection guidance.

<https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/covid-19-stay-at-home-guidance/stay-at-home-guidance-for-households-with-possible-coronavirus-covid-19-infection>

Someone at school will contact you and ask you to arrange for your son/daughter to be collected. It will not be possible for a member of staff to bring them home, or for us to send them home on public transport.

Before your child returns to school, you will be asked whether anyone in your household is clinically vulnerable or clinically extremely vulnerable. We will discuss with you what this means for your son/daughter, and whether or not it is advisable for them to remain at home and continue with remote learning.

## What work will my child be doing when they return to school?

The focus of the curriculum for summer 2 will be re-engaging children in face-to-face learning. In addition to the formal academic subjects, this may involve some project based work that includes and exploration of their experience of the pandemic (creative writing) and related science and global issues. This is a golden opportunity for them to reflect on this world-wide event.

## What are we doing to work safely with your child?

Here are just a few examples of what we will put in place to keep our children and staff safe:

- Divide pupils into small groups that do not mix and work with them in a 'home base'. We will use outdoor space as we can.
- Staff will move around the building, so there is less of an opportunity for pupils to come into contact with others.



- Layout and place visual cues in each room to facilitate social distancing, removing unnecessary furniture, if possible.
- Consider which activities will be more difficult or not possible to do in school due to social distancing rules, and whether there are workable alternatives.
- Develop and deliver a programme to pupils to help them understand protective practices.
- Ensure regular cleaning of areas where there is frequent touching by multiple individuals, e.g. entry systems, photocopiers.
- Plan the school day and activities that will allow pupils to adjust slowly to school life, including PHSE/play in the afternoon.

## Travel

If you can support your child to travel in by bicycle or car, rather than travelling in on public transport, that will be the best option by far. However, if they need to use public transport you will find a link to the government's safer travel guidance on our website.

## Managing behaviour to ensure everyone is safe

We will be working with your child to help them to understand the need for a new way of working. The measures are there to protect them and others. If your child has special educational needs, this information will be provided to them in a way that they can best understand. If, even with additional support, your child cannot cope with the changes or will not comply with measures, we may need to involve you in completing a risk assessment. We will make alternative arrangements for pupils who are unable to comply with reasonable safety requests; this may include reverting to remote learning.

## Further information

We have a wealth of information on our website.

[www.saffronvalleycollegiate.co.uk](http://www.saffronvalleycollegiate.co.uk) → coronavirus updates

As always, please continue to contact your school leaders if you have any questions or concerns. Until we return to school, we will continue to monitor the email address: [emergency@saffronvalleycollegiate.co.uk](mailto:emergency@saffronvalleycollegiate.co.uk).

We all have your child's best interests at heart, and are looking forward to working with them, face-to-face, once more.

Jenny Adamson, Headteacher