

## Extended communication on RGS school reopening 2020 for students

Information below comes from Gov.UK – <a href="#">Guidance for full opening: schools</a> : August 7 <sup>th</sup> 2020	
Concern	Guidance
Models of School opening	<p>The RGS has planned comprehensively for 4 different scenarios.</p> <p>All boys should ensure that they have a fully charged device, such that they can access Teams, and earphones with them always.</p>
Catering	<p>We expect that kitchens will be fully open from the start of the autumn term and normal legal requirements will apply about provision of food to all pupils who want it, including for those eligible for benefits-related free school meals.</p> <p>School kitchens must comply with the <a href="#">guidance for food businesses on coronavirus (COVID-19)</a>.</p>
Process in event of outbreak	<p>If a local area sees a spike in infection rates that is resulting in localised community spread, appropriate authorities will decide which measures to implement to help contain the spread. The Department for Education will be involved in decisions at a local and national level affecting a geographical area, and will support appropriate authorities and individual settings to follow the health advice.</p> <p>In the event of a local outbreak, the PHE health protection team or local authority may advise a school or number of schools to close temporarily to help control transmission. The RGS will be ready to switch to remote learning instantly, should this be needed.</p>
Test and Trace - boys	<p><b>It is imperative that all stakeholders understand that we, as a School, will not be able to share any personal details of any individual testing positive. This includes the name of said individual, unless advised otherwise by PHE.</b></p> <p>Please do not come into School if you are unwell. If you become unwell during the school day, we will ask for your parents or a guardian to collect you as soon as is possible.</p> <p>Your parents will then book a test for you, and follow guidance re. isolation that has been shared with them. Throughout this process you will have access to remote education, and your participation will be supported and monitored.</p>
Attendance	<p>From September 1<sup>st</sup> 2020, school attendance will therefore be mandatory again. We have shared further details with your parents, and will obviously support absence if you are unwell, but simply put, we are looking forward to seeing you all back in September.</p>
PPE	<p>Government advice states that the majority of staff in education settings will not require PPE beyond what they would normally need for their work, and not at all by boys.</p> <p>The RGS, however, will support all boys should they wish to wear masks or gloves. We ask that they do so responsibly and maturely and take responsibility for the disposal of them in bins that are fitted with lids.</p>
Co-curricular Provision	<p>We will resume any co-curricular provision, where possible, from the start of the autumn term. We recognise that we need to be flexible and build this up over time, and we ask for your patience in this. Mr Clatworthy, our Director of Co-Curricular, will support all boys and staff in this, and has built a domestic co-curricular programme for the coming year which he will share with you and your parents at the start of term. Our provision is designed to offer all pupils opportunities to re-engage with their peers and with the School.</p> <p>We will use small, consistent groups for Co-Curricular Clubs so that the Test and Trace process can be enabled.</p>
Educational visits	<p>The Government continues to advise against domestic (UK) overnight and overseas educational visits at this stage see <a href="#">coronavirus: travel guidance for educational settings</a>.</p> <p>In the autumn term, schools can resume non-overnight <b>domestic</b> educational visits.</p>

Teaching expectations	<p>The key principles that underpin our advice on curriculum planning are:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>education is not optional: all pupils receive a high-quality education that promotes their development and prepares them for the opportunities, responsibilities and experiences of later life.</li> <li>the curriculum remains broad and ambitious: all pupils continue to be taught a wide range of subjects, maintaining their choices for further study and employment.</li> <li>remote education, where needed, is high quality and aligns as closely as possible with in-school provision: schools and other settings continue to build their capability to educate pupils remotely, where this is needed. The RGS expects full participation of boys who are learning remotely, unless they are ill. This will be monitored by their full participation in Assignments set on Teams.</li> </ul> <p><b>Music</b> – please be aware that we will have to amend the way in which we deliver some music lessons. This will be shared with you in September and we ask for your patience and understanding. Your parents have more detail, should you be interested at this time.</p>
Parents Evenings	The RGS is exploring software which will enable remote Parents Evenings. We will update all staff, boys and parents as soon as is possible.
Catch up support	<p>The RGS will provide catch-up support for boys where required. It is offered to you, we ask for your full engagement.</p> <p>TAA for Years 10 and 11 will only run for CCF. All other activities will be suspended, and boys will be asked to study privately at home whilst we target support across subjects for Years 10 and 11 where needed on an individual basis.</p>
Year 11 and 13	<p>Timing of UCAS exam (wc 28 September) and mock week (Year 11 wc 4/1 and 11/1 : Year 13 wc 25/1)</p> <p>For the summer 2021 exams, the Government recognises that pupils in Years 11 and 13 will have missed a critical period of their education due to lockdown in the 2019-2020 academic year. It is vital that these pupils are able to catch up and access exams that lead to the qualifications they need to progress. The Government is planning on the basis that GCSEs and A levels will take place in summer 2021 but with adaptations, including those which will free up teaching time. Ofqual is currently <a href="#">consulting on proposed adaptations to exams</a>.</p>
Boys sitting exams in Autumn – expectation on staff to support	<p>There will also be an exam series taking place in autumn 2020. Following the cancellation of summer 2020 exams, the exam boards have provided students with calculated grades (except in some exceptional cases) this summer, and these along with their Centre Assessment Grades will enable students to move onto their next step. DfE has, however, also <a href="#">announced that there will be an opportunity for students to sit exams in the autumn</a> and Ofqual has confirmed these exams will be available in all subjects. Where a student wishes to sit an exam, DfE's guidance on <a href="#">Centre responsibility for autumn GCSE, AS and A level exam series</a> sets out that we expect the centre that entered them for the summer series to enter them in the autumn series and take overall responsibility for ensuring that they have somewhere appropriate to sit their exams. The Government are also exploring further ways in which it might be possible to minimise additional burdens on centres whilst ensuring that exams remain accessible for students.</p> <p>Mr Eve will be organising additional support for those boys sitting exams in the Autumn. This will be outside normal school hours and we will provide details in the first two weeks of term. Please be aware that we do not have the capacity to face the challenges of offering teaching in School and remote learning, and further offering catch up sessions in addition. We wish this were not the case, but we are already asking staff to 'double' their work and we must protect staff well-being for what could be a long-term challenge.</p>
Physical Activity in school	The RGS will continue to offer an extensive Physical Activity programme. Schools have the flexibility to decide how physical education, sport and physical activity will be provided whilst following the measures in their system of controls. Pupils should be kept in consistent groups, sports equipment thoroughly cleaned between each use by different individual groups, and contact sports avoided.
Pupil Wellbeing	Pupils may be experiencing a variety of emotions in response to the coronavirus (COVID-19) outbreak, such as anxiety, stress or low mood. Some may need support to re-adjust to school; others may have enjoyed being at home and be reluctant to return; a few may be showing signs of more severe anxiety or depression. Others will not be experiencing any challenges and will be keen and ready to return to school.

	<p>Mrs Booth, Assistant Head, will lead on the School's comprehensive approach, which will be shared with staff at the start of the Autumn Term.</p> <p>We will:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• support the rebuilding of friendships and social engagement</li> <li>• address and equip pupils to respond to issues linked to coronavirus (COVID-19)</li> <li>• support pupils with approaches to improving their physical and mental wellbeing</li> <li>• offer support for resilience, mental health and wellbeing including anxiety, bereavement and sleep issues</li> <li>• offer support for pupils with additional and complex health needs</li> <li>• support vulnerable children and keeping children safe</li> </ul>
Behaviour Expectations	<p>The RGS has updated our Behaviour Policy which can be found on the website.</p> <p>It is only possible to reopen the School if every member of our community plays their part in as responsible and mature way as they are able. We ask that you consider this seriously, we are very much looking forward to seeing you all and hope for the School to run as smoothly as is possible for the benefit of all. You will be reminded of behavior expectations during Form Time and with posters around the School.</p> <p>The School will continue to operate a one-way system.</p>
School Uniform	<p>The Government encourages all schools to return to their usual uniform policies in the autumn term as uniform can play a valuable role in contributing to the ethos of a school and setting an appropriate tone.</p> <p>We will return to full uniform, although we will show some degree of flexibility regarding coats, gilets, hoodies, hats and gloves as the weather becomes colder. This is because we will have the doors and windows open, in line with guidance to school leaders, to maintain ventilation as much as is possible.</p> <p>Uniforms do not need to be cleaned any more often than usual, nor do they need to be cleaned using methods which are different to normal cleaning methods.</p>
Staggered day	<p>To minimize mixing during the school day, to the best of our ability, whilst delivering a full timetable, we will stagger the timetable. We will also bubble Year Groups during break and lunch and allocate specific 'playing areas' to them. Specific times for food allocation will also be implemented, and staff supervision in the Dining Hall will be vital to ensure success.</p> <p>Details can be found <a href="#">here</a>. Please familiarize yourself with the timings before returning.</p>
Ventilation	<p>As shared within 'School Uniform', all windows and doors will remain open, even as the weather becomes colder. This is in line with guidance from ASCL, and is because, as humidity drops as we move into the colder months, the virus will stay airborne for longer.</p>
Classroom cleaning	<p>Teaching staff will clean all desks between lessons.</p>
Book marking	<p>We have asked that staff do not take in work to mark physically <b>where possible</b>. They will continue to mark work electronically, building on the work from the summer term.</p> <p>Where this is not possible, eg Art, staff must take work in, leave it to 'stand' for 3 days, mark and then leave to stand for an additional 3 days before returning it. This timeframe is based on <a href="#">this paper</a> shared in the Lancet.</p>

Transport

**For your safety, and that of other students, we ask that your parents do not drop you off in the Uplyme carpark**

*Dedicated school transport, including statutory provision*

Pupils on dedicated school services do not mix with the general public on those journeys and groups tend to be consistent. This means that the advice for passengers on public transport to adopt a social distance of two metres from people outside their household or support bubble, or a 'one metre plus' approach where this is not possible, will **not** apply from the autumn term on dedicated transport.

The approach to dedicated transport should align as far as possible with the principles underpinning the system of controls set out in this document and with the approach being adopted for our school. We will request the following of our boys and providers:

- where possible how pupils are grouped together on transport should reflect the bubbles that are adopted within school
- use of hand sanitiser upon boarding and/or disembarking
- additional cleaning of vehicles
- organised queuing and boarding where possible
- distancing within vehicles wherever possible
- the use of face coverings for children (except those under the age of 11), where appropriate, for example, if they are likely to come into very close contact with people outside their group or who they do not normally meet

We will implement a stringent queuing system at Chadwick Street, ensuring that boys remain in their bus bubbles as much as is possible. We ask that boys queue at their bus sign, in their Year Groups, and only leave the site IN AN ORDERLY MANNER when the teacher-in-charge invites them to do so. Your support in this will be very much appreciated.

*Wider public transport*

Some of our pupils use the wider public transport system, particularly public buses. The Government expects that public transport capacity will continue to be constrained in the autumn term. Its use by pupils, particularly in peak times, should be kept to an absolute minimum.

To facilitate the return of all pupils to school, it will be necessary to take steps to both depress the demand for public transport and to increase capacity within the system. Both will require action at a national and local level.

We strongly encourage parents, staff and pupils to walk or cycle to school if possible. For some families, driving children to school will also be an option.

Families using public transport should refer to the [safer travel guidance for passengers](#).

Risk Assessment

The [RGS Coronavirus RA](#) is available to all members of our community at all times on our website. It is reviewed on a fortnightly basis.