

Dear Parents / Carers

This will be my final communication to the entire parent body of the academic year. At the start of the year none of us could possibly have envisaged what was ahead of us. There are few things truly new to us in schools, and life, but this year has been simply incredible. Please be aware of the following things as we look forward to September.

### **The big return**

I have been assured that all buses will run as normal, with a full complement of pupils. Of course, you might decide to make other arrangements if you are not happy with that. Be aware that attendance in the High School will then be compulsory, and a parent's right to decide whether or not their child attends no longer applies. Over the next few weeks I will carry out a comprehensive risk assessment for the return to school. When complete and finalised I will email you all again, detailing all relevant information you will need to know. However, just to give you an idea of some of the risk mitigation measures we will deploy, I have outlined a few below -

- face coverings will be compulsory on buses
- year group 'bubbles' to be supported through staggered break and lunch times
- years 12 & 13 to form one 'College' bubble
- slight changes to the timings of lessons to allow effective distancing
- an insistence that pupils respect distancing principles and aim to keep 1metre+ apart at all times other than when seated in a classroom
- all classes to face the front - no tables arranged in groups
- a one way system of movement around the school
- a rigorous hand washing program, backed up by sanitiser in every classroom to be used upon entry
- pupils MUST have their own, full set of equipment required, as no equipment such as pens, pencils, calculators etc can be shared
- every work surface to be wiped at the start of each lesson
- additional cleaning as required in certain subject areas
- pupils to wear freshly cleaned uniform to school - blazers not required initially to save daily washing
- no uniform obviously, but College students to wear freshly washed clothes in line with the dress code
- face coverings to be worn if wanted when not in lessons
- visitors reduced to a minimum

Headteacher: T Gibbs B Ed (Hons) NPQH  
Whitwell Road, Reepham, Norwich, NR10 4JT  
**Reepham High School & College** Tel: 01603 870328  
Email (main school): [office@reephamhigh.com](mailto:office@reephamhigh.com) [www.reephamhigh.com](http://www.reephamhigh.com)  
Email (college): [office@reephamcollege.com](mailto:office@reephamcollege.com) [www.reephamcollege.com](http://www.reephamcollege.com)

As stated, this is just a small sample of the measures that will be in place. Please be reassured we will take all action we can without compromising the delivery of a full, broad and balanced curriculum. I will address the risk assessment further nearer the start of term.

### **Staff joining RHSC**

As with every year we say goodbye and hello to some staff. Strangely, we already have two new teachers that no pupils have actually met yet; Mr Crickmore has already been with us for a term, and he will continue in the science department in September, specialising in Physics. Mrs Vellacott replaced Ms Stillwell, whilst on maternity leave at Easter, and looks forward to meeting pupils in September. Additionally Miss White has joined the PE department, Mr Munoz-Delange joins the Modern Foreign Languages department, Miss McKenna joins the Humanities department and Miss Williams continues in the science department whilst Ms Bradley is on maternity leave. Finally, Ms Winter joins us as Head of computer Science, and we look forward to having her as part of the team.

### **Staff leaving RHSC**

Mr Nicholson moves on to teach PE locally, having been with us for most of the year, which has really been a pleasure. Ms Delpy leaves us to teach in London. Ms Delpy has been absolutely fantastic and we are lucky to have had her here for four years; she will be missed enormously. Finally, Mrs Osborne leaves RHSC after 11 years. For the last five of these she has been our Careers Coordinator, and that is a time that has seen Careers Education at RHSC become a true area of strength of the school. Mrs Osborne leaves us in a great position, and I know Mrs Edgill will carry on and continue to build upon that great work. Thank you to our departing staff.

### **Online working**

You know from the emails I have sent that we started the closure period anticipating a temporary, relatively short term thing, and it lasted all year. Although we hope it doesn't happen, we are using what we have learnt in planning for the possibility of having another closure next year. Departments are considering the order of their curriculum, which topics lend themselves best to online learning, which concepts are vital and in need of face to face delivery, and how we can affect an efficient system of work setting and feedback. Many of you have emailed suggestions over the period of closure, and I can't thank you enough. Regularly your thoughts mirrored ours, and we have made adjustments along the way that I hope have helped.

### **The challenge ahead**

Some of your children will have thrived during this time of self supported independent study, although many will have struggled. In September we will face another first as a school - how to recover quickly from this period where the efforts and progress made by our pupils will have varied more so than we would normally expect. I await further news on the government's 'catch-up' funding, and look forward to supporting departments, pupils and yourselves in ensuring attainment is in line with what we would normally expect.

### **Uniform and equipment**

As mentioned earlier, we will be adapting our uniform slightly as a measure to reduce the risk of the virus spreading. At the start of the year we do not expect pupils to wear a blazer, but for them to wear just their shirt and tie, or to wear the optional jumper. This is to negate the need to wash the blazer every night. We fully intend to reintroduce it when we can though. We have made another slight change, by banning the wearing of Hoodies whilst at school. We are one of the last schools to introduce this I know, but they are clearly inappropriate items in what we promote as a formal uniform. Pupils should come to school with a jacket or coat if they are cold, but not Hoodies, thank you.

### **The well being of everyone**

As we now feel the effects of coming out of lockdown bit by bit, I hope we are able to return to all the bits of what we did regard as 'normal' that we want to. I also hope this experience has changed all our outlooks to some extent, and that we will see things through renewed eyes. I hope that everyone will be able to reflect on positives they have gained over this time, and retain them in establishing their new normal. If one result of the pandemic is that each of us builds in something we feel is really good into our routines that might not have been there before, it will be a good thing. I really hope everyone can find something to retain. One thing that I think we have seen more of over the time is a feeling of community and togetherness, a willingness to help others and to make a contribution. I hope that being away from other people more than usual will engender yet more kindness, tolerance and mutual respect between our pupils when they return in September. I hope we continue to look out for and after each other, in the way I have witnessed on a national scale and more locally, and particularly between my colleagues here at RHSC.

### **GCSE and A level results**

Like all those in Years 11 and 13, we look forward to finding out the 'examination' results. We wish everyone waiting for their results all the very best.

I hope you have a really good 'summer holiday' period, and look forward to resuming working with you all in September. As stated above, I will be in contact over the summer with details of how we will keep the school safe in September. I cannot thank you enough for your support and goodwill over the last four months.

Yours sincerely

Tim Gibbs