



Important Update – Wednesday 20th May.

Dear parent / carer,

I am writing to you to provide further detail regarding some Year groups returning to school based learning after half term and the provision for other students, including those who are the children of Key Workers who require childcare provision.

This email contains a lot of important information. A summary of any actions you need to take or important updates are below.

Summary for Year 10:

- Maintain social distancing at home.
- Introduce your child to the concept of the Family Bubble and the need to stay in the Family Bubble when at school. You can use this explainer video here <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=VG347gkQ5zM&feature=youtu.be>
- Note the start and finish time for your child's Family Bubble.
- Refresh your child's understanding of our key school rules – details below.
- We will not be asking Year 10 to wear uniform. We would ask that what they wear to school is appropriate e.g. no exposed areas of the body such as mid-drifts or shorts and skirts which are not appropriate for a workplace environment.
- If students are not able to engage appropriately at school, respecting social distancing and the need for Family Bubbles to remain apart from each other then we will have no choice but to ask that child to engage with distance learning at home.
- If your child shows symptoms or tests positive for Covid-19 do not send your child to school and inform Mr R Smith (r.smith@tsatrust.org.uk).
- If a child feels unwell, they should alert one of their Family Bubble staff immediately.
- If a member of your child's bubble, student or staff, shows symptoms or tests positive for Covid-19 we will be asking everyone in that bubble to stay at home and self-isolate for 14 days.
- The latest **Government guidance is that wearing a face covering or face mask in schools or other education settings is not recommended**. Therefore, students and staff will not wear masks whilst in school.

All other students must stay at home and continue to engage with their distance learning in the way they have done up to now. For the children of Key Workers requiring childcare this will now be provided at their school from 1st June and parents should continue to provide **24 hours notice** of their intention to use this provision.

We will be opening from Monday 8th June for Year 10. This will be on a rota basis and I will be contacting Year 10 parents with a bespoke timetable for their child in the week after half term. We are hoping to offer three sessions per Family Bubble across the course of the week, giving each bubble access to an English Maths and Science teacher who will only be attached to their bubble. We are also looking at how we can ensure children also have access to option subject specialists.

I would like to reemphasise our belief that Child First = Child Safe = Adult Safe. This has been the key principle that has guided our planning since we began working on how to safely transition Year 10 back in to school based learning for some 'face to face' time with teachers before the summer.

I appreciate that this will be a longer communication than usual but, given the circumstances, I believe you will appreciate having as much information as possible at this time.

Reminder of guidance published by the government:

As you know, whilst there has been a partial relaxing of the lockdown there are still significant restrictions that we must all abide by. This is important for us as the "Bubble" approach we have taken is aimed at minimising the interaction of people when they are in school. To complement this approach it is important that we all minimise contact with other people when outside for school. I have summarised the key restrictions that are currently in place below:

- During the emergency period, no person may leave or be outside of the place where they are living without reasonable excuse.
- People are allowed to meet one member of another household in a public space.
- The law bans public gatherings of more than two people, except in specific circumstances.
- Exercise "with one member of another household" in outdoor public spaces, such as parks or the countryside.
- There is no limit on where the exercise can take place, and the government made clear in its new guidance that people can drive into the countryside for walks or recreation.

Family Bubbles:

To support social distancing and reduce the risk of unnecessary contact we are introducing Family Bubbles.

Each student will be part of a small, consistent Family Bubble with assigned staff who will only work with students in that Family Bubble. Students are, therefore, protected from contact with any other student outside their Family Bubble whilst at school.

How will the bubbles work?

- We have limited the Family Bubbles to 15 students.
- Your child will be issued with a coloured wristband on the date of their first face to face study session at school. This wristband will need to be kept on throughout the whole day and will be replaced when they arrive for each of their timetabled sessions.
- Bubbles will study together, take breaks / lunches together and they will only use facilities such as playgrounds and IT suites with this bubble.

I will update you all with a bespoke letter informing you of the bubble your child has been allocated to and who their assigned members of staff are after half term.

Opening Hours:

In order to welcome Year 10 students back to TPA safely and ensure social distancing we will introduce a staggered timetable for students to be able to attend their face to face study sessions.

- Students will be offered three study sessions per week.
- Each session will be 2.5hrs long and will have learning delivered by subject specialists.]
- Morning sessions will run from 9:30am-12pm however will require a staggered start and finish and so we will be writing with specific times your child should be on site.
- Afternoon sessions will run from 12:30-3pm, and again will have slightly staggered start and finish times.

We are still finalising this plan and I will update you in the first week back after half term prior to the 8th June.

In addition, we are changing how students and parents enter and leave the school as follows;

- students will only be able to enter the school through the Manor Road entrance.
- They will be met by a member of Senior Team who will remind them of the social distancing practices.
- They will then be issued with their wristband, use their allocated toilet to wash their hands in warm soapy water, and directed by members of the staff team to their relevant Family Bubble study room.
- Each Family Bubble will have a toilet facility which they are able to use, which other Family Bubbles do not have access to. This is to protect the integrity of the Family Bubble system.

School Lunches:

- We will be ensuring social distancing measures are upheld in communal areas of the school, including at breaktimes.
- We are currently working with our catering team to ensure there are snacks available for purchase at breaktimes, however you will notice that our session timings do not require a student and staff lunch break.
- For families who receive the free school meal voucher we will provide your child with an additional allowance for a breaktime snack.

Robust controls are being implemented in kitchens to ensure catering staff are social distancing whilst preparing and serving food and extra checks will be made to ensure our supplier is delivering exceptionally high food safety standards.

Until further notice all payments will be cashless. This can be topped up online and those students entitled to free school meals will be able to use their allowance as usual.

Uniforms:

During this time, we are not asking students to wear uniform. Please ensure that your keep your clothes clean and regularly washed to help maintain the highest standards of hygiene. Whilst wearing non school uniform our usual non school uniform rules apply

Face masks:

The latest **Government guidance is that wearing a face covering or face mask in schools or other education settings is not recommended.** Furthermore, the government states that schools and

other education or childcare settings should therefore not require staff, children and learners to wear face coverings. The majority of staff in education settings will not require PPE beyond what they would normally need for their work, even if they are not always able to maintain a distance of 2 metres from others.

Therefore, students and staff will not wear masks whilst in school.

School Rules:

This has been an unusual time for us all and we have had to make many adjustments during lockdown. Children would have missed their friends and the structure their school environment brings through routine. As we move into the next stage and begin to reclaim some normality, we will be asking all our students to remember school rules and behave in a suitable manor within their bubbles.

- Students must arrive at their allocated time, via the Manor Road entrance (the back gate).
- They must ensure they are wearing their wristband.
- They must go straight to their allocated Family Bubble room.
- They are not to mix with other students outside of their bubble.
- They must only use the toilet allocated to their Family Bubble.
- They must be polite and courteous to everyone they are in contact with and follow social distancing guidance.
- They must follow instructions from staff at all times. This is to keep them safe.

We must make it clear that our first priority is to keep our community safe as we transition back to school based learning. Therefore, **if a student is unable to engage appropriately at school, respecting social distancing and the need for Family Bubbles to remain apart from each other then we will have no choice but to ask that child to engage with distance learning at home.** This is to ensure the safety of our whole school community.

Keeping our community safe over time:

Whilst we are studying within the Family Bubbles we will be following the Government self-isolation strategy. If a member of your child's bubble, student or staff, shows symptoms or tests positive for Covid-19 we will be asking everyone in that bubble to stay at home and self-isolate for 14 days.

If your Child shows symptoms or tests positive for Covid-19 do not send your child to school and inform Mr R Smith (r.smith@tsatrust.org.uk).

If you are at school and begin to show symptoms then you must tell your Teacher immediately. We will contact parents to alert them that their child is showing symptoms and ask them to collect their child immediately.

These rules also apply if anyone in your household is affected. We are not medical professionals and we will be following the national advice. You can find information about symptoms [here](#).

Please note that if someone displays potentially Covid-19 symptoms but following a test is found not to have the virus then the members of the Family Bubble will be able to return to school.

Where to look for further information

We have launched today a dedicated website for information on our plans to return students safely to school.

The Thinking Schools Academy Trust is actively responding to ongoing developments with the Coronavirus outbreak so please use the links on this page for updated information on our response and what it will mean for you.

FAQs and information: www.tsatrust.org.uk/coronavirus

We look forward to safely welcoming Year 10 back to school next term. We will keep under review our ability to safely accommodate students from other year groups going forward. However, this will only be done when we are confident that this can be done safely.

I will write to Year 10 parents with finer details ASAP. Thank you for your patience around communications, I am keen to ensure whatever I communicate with you, I am able to follow through with safely.

Yours sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'R Grey', written in a cursive style.

Mrs R Grey
Principal