

Our Ref: RBR/SLT/FSC1009WSL

Thursday 10<sup>th</sup> September 2020

Dear Parents and Carers

I want to thank you for all your support as we have reopened Baysgarth to all students over the last fortnight. Attendance has been excellent, the students have looked incredibly smart in their uniforms and it is so nice to have them back in school. There were some anxieties from students on their first day back into the building, but these soon evaporated and they are now relaxing back into their 'new normal' routines. We're very proud of our new Year 7 students, who have settled really well into school life despite not having our typical transition process in the summer term. We'd like to thank parents for their support during this transition and for their kind comments - this example is typical of the many we have received: *'I would like to take this opportunity to say how impressed I am with Baysgarth, we have had more interaction with you in a few months than we had with her old school in five years!'*

As we said back in the summer and reiterated two weeks ago, our plans were for a staggered start to assess our systems and ensure that we were ready to reopen fully on 14<sup>th</sup> September. In an ever-changing environment it is dangerous to plan too far ahead, so we have waited to judge the national and local situation before finalising our plans for a full reopening. Whilst it is clear that cases are on the rise nationally, the local picture is still relatively flat, so we do plan to reopen to all year groups from Monday 14<sup>th</sup> September.

Below we outline our plans for this full reopening. We will point out that these plans are subject to change at any time. We know that a member of staff in another North Lincolnshire secondary school has tested positive for Covid-19 this week and they have had to delay opening to certain year groups. Parents and carers, as well as we as a school, will have to be aware that the school may have to close to certain groups of students at short notice, if any of our staff test positive. If this happens, rest assured that we have embedded our remote learning systems so that students would still be able to access and complete work straight away, with no learning time lost.

To facilitate this and improve home school communication, we plan to give parents guardian access to all of our Google Classrooms, and therefore be able to see every piece of work set and every communication between teachers and your child - thus keeping you in the loop and leaving you best placed to support your child. Hopefully, we won't have to close at any point, but whether we do or don't, parents will have far more information at their fingertips about the work their child is completing in school and this can only help us work together to get the best out of all of our students.

### **Plans for a full reopening from Monday 14<sup>th</sup> September**

What we have learnt from the first two weeks of our staggered opening is what we have known all along - social distancing is impossible at Baysgarth. We have 900 students in a school built for 900 students, so we are at maximum capacity. Class sizes are large and corridors are crowded. Bubbles are not possible to maintain or enforce, particularly considering the school buses situation where every year group is mixed together. Our best weapons against the spread of Covid-19 in school are:

- Well-ventilated classrooms with all students facing the front
- Increased daytime cleaning
- Students taking responsibility to keep themselves safe with good hygiene practices, in particular using sanitiser every time they enter or leave a classroom
- Students being outside as much as possible during their social times at break and lunchtime

These principles will be at the heart of what we do as a school when we fully reopen from Monday. As you can see, students are used to these measures already:



### Travel to and from School

It has been reiterated by the Local Authority's public health team that facemasks are compulsory on school transport and we thank parents for helping us to reinforce that message. Students should use the sanitiser provided on the buses when they enter and leave the bus. Our buses will be very crowded so students must take responsibility to keep themselves safe. It has been lovely to see an increase in the number of students (and staff!) cycling to school since we returned, so thank you to parents who have encouraged their children to take this route.

The guidance from the Local Authority for students using dedicated transport services is as follows:

- All students are expected to wear a face mask when using school transport. The Director of Public Health for North Lincolnshire advises that this is a compulsory measure.
- The guidance requires students to sit in a consistent seating plan and should use the same seat for each journey to and from school.
- All students using school transport must wash their hands immediately before and after each journey - all buses are equipped with hand sanitizer.
- All students should maintain social distancing when queueing at bus stops.

### Arriving at School

We will continue to hold students outside the building until 8.15am. We are still seeing students arriving at school from 7.45am and as the weather deteriorates they will be waiting outside for up to half an hour, so we again encourage students not to arrive before 8.10am.

Year 7, 8 and 9 students will enter using the main student entrance and wait by the front courts as they have been doing for the past two weeks, entering the school at 8.15-8.20am and going straight to their classrooms.

Students in Years 10 and 11 need to enter the site via the side of the building, using the path between the main school and the Sports Hall.

Splitting these year groups will allow students to enter the building using all five of our external doors, thus reducing congestion.

## PE Lessons

We will not be using the PE changing rooms for the foreseeable future, so students still need to make sure that they come to school in their PE kit on days they have PE on their timetable. This does not mean that students can wear non-uniform tops, hoodies or wear coats in the school building - only Baysgarth PE kit is allowed. The only exception to this is **Monday 21<sup>st</sup> September, which is School Photograph Day, and all students need to be in full school uniform, whether they have PE or not on that day; these lessons will be theory based.**

## Tutor Time

From Monday, students will revert to their usual vertical tutoring groups in Houses. This will be an exciting time as our tutor groups welcome their new Year 7 members and carry out lots of activities to make them feel welcome. Students will be sat with peers from their own year group in tutor time to limit risks but it will still be lovely to have this integral part of the Baysgarth family back to almost normal.

## Social Times

Both canteens will be back in action from Monday. We will continue with split breaks and lunches as we usually do, and we will still be ensuring that all students are outside the building unless they are eating in the canteens. This is a change of policy and students are now far more likely to need a coat than they have done in previous years, although we continue to reinforce these cannot be worn in the buildings. We understand that the beginning of the year is an expensive time and that many families in our community are struggling financially. Therefore, we will not be enforcing our usual uniform guidelines that state coats should be black or dark in colour - students can use an existing coat, even if it does not match this description.

Parents should continue to add money to lunch accounts online via [ParentPay](#) to prevent students from having to handle cash or use the Reval top-up machine in school.

## Timetables

Students will be following their normal timetable from Monday 14<sup>th</sup> September Period 2. When they come into school on Monday, students will all spend the first hour in their vertical tutor groups. This will allow our Year 7 students to meet their fellow tutees from Years 8, 9 and 10 for the first time (in a socially distanced way!). There are also a number of tiny tweaks to the timetable made in the first fortnight, so each student will receive an updated timetable in this session. You will have noticed that all students have a blank on their timetable for Week B, Wednesday Period 5. This is when we are introducing our Inspire Time session - students chose what they wanted to do in these sessions before the summer and we will be communicating to them what they will be studying in this session over the next few days.

## After School

We will still not be running any after school clubs or after school enrichment activities until half term at the earliest. There will be no late bus for students this half term and we will review this situation when we approach the half term break.

What we will establish is a supervised Homework Room after school. This will be to support our disadvantaged students who may not have access to a laptop at home and want to stay at school and use our equipment. Room 008 will be made available to students from 2.40-3.40pm on Tuesday, Wednesday and Thursday evenings from Tuesday 22<sup>nd</sup> September. Please note, students who stay will have to make their own arrangements for getting home.

## Visitors

The school is still closed to visitors, unless an appointment has been made by the school. Parents and carers should use the email system to contact the school - all our email addresses are available on the Baysgarth website [here](#). We will be ringing parents regularly and, where available, we will use Google Meet to speak to parents face-to-face.

## Parents' Evenings

There will be no Parents' Evenings held this year. Government guidance forbids us from holding mass gatherings of adults. We will write to you in the next couple of weeks to detail how we will promote excellent home school communication without being able to hold a traditional Parents' Evening.

## Other Calendar Events

We traditionally start the year with a number of Welcome Evenings for different year groups so that by the beginning of November all our parents have had an opportunity to come into school. These events will now be held virtually, starting week beginning Monday 21<sup>st</sup> September, and more details will follow about how you can join these meetings.

The same is true for our Friends of Baysgarth Group. This PTA is always looking for new members and if you are interested in volunteering your time to support our students and help raise and distribute funds, then please get in touch with our Assistant Head Teacher, David Roberts via [david.roberts@baysgarthschool.co.uk](mailto:david.roberts@baysgarthschool.co.uk)

Open Evening is our biggest celebration and marketing event of the year and this usually attracts over 600 visitors to the site. For obvious reasons this cannot happen this year and instead we will have a programme of online events and release of information to support those who want their child to join the fastest growing and most successful school in the area - more details will be released very soon.

Finally, to help keep up to date with what is happening at the school, you can visit our website, like our Facebook page (@baysgarthschool) and download our free mobile app. You can also follow us on Twitter, @SchoolBaysgarth, which we re-launched this week.

Lots of information to take in and lots of things we will be following up with further communication over the coming days and weeks. We appreciate your patience and support whilst we continue to set up the school and how it will run to keep everyone as safe as possible. If you have any questions that you feel we haven't answered, please get in touch and we will get back to you with an answer within 24 hours.

Take care and have a lovely weekend.

Yours faithfully



Richard Briggs  
Head Teacher

