



Update 17th July 2020

Dear parent / carer,

The purpose of this update is to provide you with some further details as to how Woodham Academy will operate come September. All schools received a letter from the Secretary of State for Education this week, asking us to highlight to parents / carers that returning to school in September is compulsory for all students and that attendance will be very closely monitored. Unlike our current provision for year 10, which in essence has been optional, we do expect the full cohort of students to return.

I will provide even further detail for you all in the last week of August, as I anticipate further changes in government advice over the next few weeks, but I have outlined below the main principles behind our plan.

1. All year groups will be isolated from one another in school. This is referred to as 'bubbles' in many of the government documents.
2. All year groups will receive their full range of subjects, delivered by their timetabled teacher, in their timetabled room. **This is a key feature of Woodham Academy's plan.**
3. Students will line up at designated parts of the school in between every lesson. This is to ensure the safe and supervised movement around school. Students will be taken to these line ups and also collected from these line ups.
4. Many of our classrooms are accessible via external doors, so most of the movement around school will be on the outside. This significantly reduces the risk of cross contamination.
5. Where appropriate, a one-way system will operate in corridors.
6. Each year group will have their own toilets.
7. Each year group will have their own space at breaktime.
8. Each year group will have their own lunch space (dining rooms will be fully open but only one-year group will access at any one time).
9. All students will use hand sanitizer before they enter a room. They will also be issued with a sanitising wipe to clean their desk / chair after use. We are very keen to encourage the whole community to take a level of responsibility for themselves and each other.
10. The start of the school day will remain the same in terms of timings. We considered staggered starts but it was felt that there is a very natural flow of students on a morning, and staggering the start may encourage gatherings outside of the gates.
11. The end of the school day will be slightly staggered, with younger students leaving a few minutes early.
12. Full school uniform will be worn.
13. We are awaiting further information with regards to how PE might work.
14. Initially, no extra-curricular activities will be taking place, with all students leaving at 3.15pm.
15. Students are not permitted to share equipment or resources. It is vital that they are prepared for their lessons.
16. Additional safety measures may be in place for practical areas of the school, such as technology.
17. A full risk assessment has been conducted, but will require further updates nearer to September.

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Our plan revolves around very tight systems and structures being in place, so that once students arrive to their lessons, their education is of the quality we have come to know and expect from Woodham Academy. I would ask now that you begin to emphasise to your children that school will be more 'controlled' next year and that everyone needs to take responsibility for their actions. I have no doubt that they will rise to the challenge.

I hope you and your families have a great summer. I will provide a final update towards the end of the holidays.

Stay safe,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "A.P. Bell". The letters are cursive and connected.

Andrew Bell
Headteacher