



Malton School

A Specialist Science School

SUPPORT INSPIRE THRIVE

5th June 2020

Dear Parent / Carer,

Coronavirus Response Update

Brace yourselves! I am writing, as promised, to lay out in detail the school's approach to the delivery of some "face-to-face" provision for students in Year 10 and Year 12, and revised transition visits for Year 6 students, before the end of the summer term as required by the government. This is a lengthy but very important letter. Please take the time to go through it thoroughly.

Before I go further, please bear in mind that the government has made it clear that no school can have more than 25% of the combined cohort of Year 10 and 12 students in the building on any given day. For us, that means 50 of these students.

Our approach seeks to take on board your feedback and to balance our two key priorities that we have laid out from the start: to ensure the health and safety of students and staff and to provide the best possible ongoing education.

If we are going to ask students and staff to take an element of risk in attending school, then all parties need to be sure that the experience will be a genuinely worthwhile one that enhances the education and wellbeing of the students. If we are just doing it for show to meet a government target then we shouldn't be doing it at all. I believe that the plan outlined below seeks to deliver a clearly beneficial experience for students on the days that they attend and that this is worth it when balanced against the steps we have included in the plan to mitigate and reduce any risks involved.

Year 12

Students in Year 12 will be invited to attend school on Wednesdays.

They will attend in option blocks and have an immersive day with the subject specialist staff who teach them the subject that they follow in that option block.

This will start on Wednesday 17th June with subjects in Option Block A, and will end on Wednesday 15th July with Option Block E subjects.

This approach means that no more than 40 Yr12 students would be attending on any one day.

They would be based in 1 or 2 subject rooms depending on the size of the group and the number of staff teaching that post-16 course (most courses are taught by 2 members of staff).

Where teaching groups are large and need to be split in half this will happen so that each group can maintain social distancing safely within the teaching rooms. In this scenario the two members of staff will swap rooms and all students will still receive the same content delivery.

This will allow each student to have 1 full day for each subject they study before the end of term. In most cases students follow three courses so this will mean 3 days in school, but it could be 2 or 4 depending on individual courses and options taken.

The teaching staff will be able to: recap the remote learning that has taken place since 20th March; identify what has and has not been understood; address any areas of concern; deliver some new material; and lay out a subject plan for the coming weeks until the class is able to meet again.

Members of the Sixth Form pastoral team will be on hand to support students as required and they will also be making contact on those days with students who remain at home because they do not follow a course in that option block. This is to ensure that each student over the course of the 5 weeks will receive an overall pastoral / wellbeing conversation and a careers related guidance discussion about next steps.

Year 10

Year 10 is more complicated than Year 12 for two reasons: the total number of students involved; and the total number of courses that each student follows.

As a consequence, despite modelling different approaches, it is not possible to safely bring the Year 10 students in to get some time with every subject that they follow.

We have therefore prioritised English, Maths and Science, along with some pastoral / careers input.

Year 10 students will attend, in 4 small groups of 8 each, on Mondays and Fridays by invitation.

This means that there will be a maximum of 32 Year 10 students in school on those days.

This provision will start on Monday 22nd June, allowing two fortnightly cycles to be completed before the end of term.

This means that each student will have 2 full days in school before the end of term.

The 4 groups on each day will follow the normal timings of the school day and will rotate, using a one-way routed system, between English, Maths, Science and a Pastoral / Careers Guidance session.

The groups have been chosen based on their Science sets to ensure no conflict between triple and dual science.

Students will receive input from subject specialist teaching staff (not necessarily their normal teacher) who will seek to identify what learning has gone well and not so well since 20th March, recap key learning concepts, provide some new material and guide students as to the next elements of the curriculum that lie ahead until the classes can meet again.

Each student will have an individual conversation with pastoral staff that will include their wellbeing as well as guidance over their next career steps.

Year 6 Transition Visits

Year 6 students who have been allocated a place for September will be invited for a transition visit in small groups of no more than 8 students.

To get through the whole cohort, this will require 20 half day sessions, starting from Tuesday 16th June.

The students will have an individual invitation for a two and a half hour visit.

As far as is possible, the groups will come from the same primary school. However, we have students coming to us from more than 30 different primaries, with only 1 or 2 students coming from quite a few of those schools. So, we have had to establish some groups with students from different schools, but this has been kept to a minimum.

There will be two groups visiting each day, one from 9.00am to 11.30am and the other from 12.30pm to 3.00pm, on Tuesdays and Thursdays from 16th June onwards.

Under the current circumstances it is not possible for Malton School to provide transport for these visits and so we will be asking parents to work round their individual invitation date to make arrangements for the drop off and collection of their child. Many parents want to do this anyway in normal circumstances on the transition days, so I hope this will not cause too much of an issue.

The students will receive a welcome from key staff, an essential information pack, guidance on preparations for September and an orientation tour of the school. The session is designed to minimise any worries that the young people may have about the move up to secondary school.

General Points

- The provision for vulnerable children or children of key workers continues on a daily basis as it has done since 23rd March. If you haven't been accessing this but circumstances have changed and you need it, please get in touch with Mrs Swindells via sas@maltonschool.org
- The Year 10 and Year 12 students will need to bring a packed lunch with them, or pre-order a packed lunch from the canteen, by emailing the Kitchen Manager – anne.gordon@northyorks.gov.uk
- Travel to and from school for the Year 10 and Year 12 students has been assessed against the specific students who will be attending each day. It has been assumed that if a student normally walks, cycles or comes in a car to school this will continue. In this instance please stress to your child the importance of maintaining social distancing as they travel to and from school. If your child normally travels on a school bus, I can tell you that we have looked at the numbers on any given day on each route to check that the buses will not be overcrowded. The students must sit in alternate rows and in the window seats, maintaining the social distance rules at all times. You may prefer to bring your child in by car if you can on these appointment dates, as each child will only have 2 or 3 specified dates, and we would encourage that.

If you wish to book a seat on the school bus you must do this as follows – if the provider is North Yorkshire County Council (for students who live in our catchment area and who do not pay for

transport), you must follow the advice in the letter below from NYCC –

Dear Parent/Carer,

*We have now confirmed our arrangements for School opening during week commencing 15 June subject to any further Government announcements. We are aware that some children will either need to, or wish to, continue to travel on their **NYCC provided home to school transport service**.*

NYCC will endeavour to arrange transport for pupils who usually travel where they have sufficient notice, and in doing so will try to provide for social distancing, but they cannot guarantee or enforce it. Where service capacity is limited, priority will be given to pupils who are entitled to free travel under the Home to School Transport policy.

So that NYCC can assess demand and make appropriate arrangements they require that existing users of NYCC provided transport who wish to use services in week commencing 15 June complete this survey weblink which is now live. (<https://www.northyorks.gov.uk/schools-and-childrens-services-during-coronavirus-covid-19#transport>)

Registration for services in week commencing 15 June closes at 12 noon on Monday 8 June. All future closing dates are shown on the webpage. Should any parent/carer experience difficulty with registration please contact NYCC on 01609 780780.

You are strongly advised to register by the cut-off date each week so that arrangements can be made for your child. Transport may not be available for your child if registrations are not submitted by the weekly closing date.

NYCC services that do operate will be to normal routes and times that were operating prior to lockdown. If, having registered, there is any difficulty with arrangements you will be contacted directly by NYCC.

*The latest Government advice for parents on returning to school, including considerations around transport **can be found here** . <https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/closure-of-educational-settings-information-for-parents-and-carers/closure-of-educational-settings-information-for-parents-and-carers#transport> Parents should also be aware of the Government guidance which recommends people should avoid travel using public transport, and that passengers on public transport are recommended to wear face coverings if they can. Drivers and any passenger assistant on NYCC provided transport may be wearing them, and parents should prepare their children for this. NYCC is not insisting that children wear face coverings. However, if you want your child to wear a face covering whilst on an NYCC transport service that is a matter of parental choice.*

If you come on a bus that is contracted by Malton School because you live out of catchment and pay a fee to travel, you must confirm your intention to take up a seat on your given dates by emailing Mrs Lane via jml@maltonschool.org . You must do this at least 7 days ahead of your invited day in school. Failure to do this may result in the bus being cancelled if there are no students booked on it.

- We advise against use of public transport to come to school at this time, where possible please make an alternative arrangement. If you have no choice you will need to follow the government guidance, including wearing a face mask (from 15th June onwards).
- Your son or daughter will be asked to attend a designated entrance point (West or East Wing only – the sports centre entrance will NOT be in use) in their individual invite letter. Please make sure that they do this. Once they arrive there will be social distance line markings outside each wing, as we are all getting used to outside shops and other services. The students will enter the buildings one at a time in an orderly fashion.
- As they enter the building all students and staff will be asked to take a temperature test. We have a machine at each wing that will measure a person's temperature from their wrist. This is not a failsafe mechanism to avoid the risk of coronavirus in school but where a student or staff member is found to have a temperature in excess of 37.5 degrees they will be asked to go home, self-isolate and monitor. If this happens to your child, a first aid member of staff will look after them in a separate space until we have been able to contact home and ask you to come in and collect them.
- We do not expect any poor behaviour at all. The positive discipline system will continue to operate, with staff issuing house points or negative comments (if necessary) electronically onto the Bromcom system. **If a student does behave in a way that puts anyone at risk (for example, by deliberately breaking the social distancing rules) they will be excluded** by the senior member of staff on duty (as the Isolation room will not be operating at this time). This means that we would expect you to be contactable and available to come into school and pick your child up if they have behaved in an unacceptable manner. I do not believe that this will happen but I need to be clear and upfront about it. I hope you will all support the school in this approach to help us to ensure the health and safety of everyone in the building.
- **Invitation letters will be issued next week.** The most urgent matter relates to any Year 12 student who follows a subject in Option Block A and who can only get to school on a NYCC provided bus. This will only apply to a few students but if your child is one then you do need to meet the NYCC deadline above of 12noon on Monday 8th June to guarantee your seat on the bus for Wednesday 17th June.
- **Please note that when you receive your individual invitation letter for your child that it is precisely that – an invitation.** You are encouraged to send them in to school on those days but you are not required to do so. The government have made it clear that there will be no penalty for non-attendance this term.
- Where your child has pre-existing medical conditions that might place them at heightened risk we completely understand and support any decision you might make to keep them at home. You will still receive an invite letter. It is not because we have forgotten about the condition, it is simply that the added variable into an already complicated database mailmerge is too much – especially when parents may have differing views on the extent of a condition. If your child suffers from Asthma you may find it helpful to look at the advice published by Asthma UK. There are degrees of seriousness to asthma and many people have it at a very mild level. Whether or not it is a condition that heightens vulnerability depends on its severity and the medication that is being taken. Guidance has been issued by [Asthma UK](#) which provides

specific information around whether or not an individual is sufficiently affected by the condition to be included within the vulnerable category.

- Emerging UK and international data suggests that Covid19 is disproportionately affecting people from Black, Asian and Minority Ethnic (BAME) backgrounds. If you are concerned about this we again understand if you would prefer not to send your child into school. If you would like us to look at an additional or specific risk assessment please contact Mrs Lane via jml@maltonschool.org
- **Please also note that attendance at school this term is by invitation, and prior acceptance only.** The school is not generally open. So, if your child just turns up without us having invited them and having received confirmation from you that they are going to attend, then they will not be allowed to do so. It will be your responsibility to collect them or to ensure that they return home safely.

The Continued Provision of High Quality Remote Learning for All Students

The plan outlined above has been put together within the context that we are determined to maintain the high quality remote learning provision that we have in place for all students. By putting the plan together in the way that we have, we can ensure that all staff continue to deliver remote lessons as they have been doing. This is an important advantage for students in Years 7, 8 and 9 as well as those in Years 10 and 12 on the days that they are not attending. The only difference will be that where a teacher is doing a full day teaching in school, for example coming in to teach their Year 12 class on a Wednesday, they would set work for their other lessons in advance and simply let those students know that they would be unavailable for that lesson to answer any questions via the class discussion function in Showbie. In all other respects the current system will remain the same and students will continue to benefit from an excellent provision.

“Live Learning”

It is our intention to further improve our remote learning with the addition of an element of “live learning” whereby a teacher will deliver part or all of a lesson “live” via Microsoft Teams. The students will be able to see and interact with their teacher. This will be an important added benefit. However, there are potential problems and risks with the use of this unless it is very well established in advance. So, we have been working with the local authority to develop a set of protocols to mitigate the potential safeguarding risks posed by the delivery of “live learning”. The staff team will be receiving further updates and training on this next week. I will write out to you again by the end of next week with a set of procedures that we will use to enable “live learning” to take place.

Yours faithfully,



Rob Williams

Headteacher