

Dear parents, carers and students,

As we prepare for the return of all students on Tuesday I thought it would be useful to give you some important updates and reminders:

Timing of the School Day

Students should arrive on site from 8.20 a.m.

Post-16 students should sanitise their hands in the Sixth Form block on arrival before going to lessons.

Students in Years 10 and 11 should go straight to their form rooms and sanitise their hands on entry.

Students in Years 7,8 and 9 should use the outside sinks to wash their hands, before going straight to their form room.

The morning bell will sound at 8.40 a.m. and any student arriving after this time will be classified as late.

We will return to our previous staggered ending of the school day –

Year Group	End of day
7	2.45 p.m.
8	2.40 p.m.
9	2.35 p.m.
10	2.30 p.m.
11	2.45 p.m. (unless remaining for period 7)
12/13	2.30 p.m.

Face Coverings

As I am sure you will be aware, as part of the [updated guidance](#) provided by the Government, they have made a number of recommendations regarding the use of face coverings in order to help reduce the risk of transmission.

Prior to the partial school closure on Tuesday 5 January, students were required to wear a face covering at the following times:

- When travelling to and from school using school transport or public transport;
- When moving around the school including corridors and communal areas;
- For Post 16 students in the common room and P-Rooms.

Following the latest guidance, students will be ***strongly encouraged*** to wear face coverings:

- When they are in a classroom and are unable to maintain a 2 metre distance from other students or adults.

The STAR MAT Face Coverings guidance has been updated to reflect this change and reads as:

For secondary schools:

Where pupils in year 7 and above are educated, we recommend that face coverings should be worn by adults and pupils when moving about the premises, outside of classrooms, such as in corridors and communal areas where social distancing cannot easily be maintained. Face coverings do not need to be worn by pupils when outdoors on the premises.

In addition we now also recommend in those schools, that face coverings should be worn in classrooms or during activities unless social distancing can be maintained. This does not apply in situations where a face covering would impact on the ability to take part in exercise or strenuous activity for example in PE lessons.

The full STAR MAT Guidance on face coverings in a school setting can be found [here](#). This guidance will of course be reviewed in line with any changes to national guidelines.

We fully understand that this may result in students wearing face coverings for lengthy periods of time and would encourage students to bring multiple face coverings to school so that they can be replaced if they become damp or uncomfortable.

Students sitting PPE examinations will not be required to wear face coverings once sitting at their desk, as desks will be 2 metres apart and ventilation is enhanced in the hall.

For students who have provided evidence to show that they are exempt from wearing a face covering, the above guidance does not apply.

Operating Procedures – Risk Assessment

We are fortunate that we implemented significant safety measures prior to the most recent national restrictions that our students and colleagues are familiar with. These procedures remain the same and must be followed by all members of our school community.

Students must:

- Wash their hands (or if in Years 10 and above sanitise their hands) as soon as they arrive on the school premises;
- Use the designated routes to access their classrooms in their own 'learning zone';
- Not leave their 'learning zone' without permission or without being escorted;
- Use the toilet facilities that they have been designated;
- Use the hand sanitiser available in classrooms, corridors and communal spaces upon entry and exit;
- Use the hand sanitiser available when removing or replacing their face covering;
- Only bring essential items to school as lockers remain out of bounds;
- Observe a 2 metre social distance wherever possible;
- Only use the outdoor spaces that have been designated to them.

Parents/carers are reminded that we are required to keep visitors on site to a minimum. Please contact the school in advance if you wish to make an appointment to meet with a member of staff.

The updated STAR MAT risk assessment can be found [here](#).

School Uniform and Equipment

I know first hand how much some of our students have grown since they last put on their school uniform! I also know how difficult it is to source some items and I'd like to thank you in advance for the efforts you will be making to ensure students return to school in full school uniform (this includes school shoes, no facial piercings and appropriate nails/make-up). If you have any worries at all, please could you contact your child's House Achievement Leader.

To minimise the risk of sharing items, it is essential that students have their equipment with them at all times. At Sherburn High School our equipment list is as follows:

- Two blue or black pens
- A red pen
- A yellow highlighter
- A glue stick
- A pencil
- An eraser
- A ruler
- A black or blue whiteboard pen
- A small packet of colouring pencils

Students will also need to bring their mini-whiteboards and planners.

Lateral Flow Tests

Thank you - we have been delighted by the huge take up of lateral flow on-site testing. Further information about home testing will be following shortly.

The government has recently extended the provision of Lateral Flow Tests to families with school aged children. Information about how this can be found [here](#).

I would also like to remind you that should your child or any family member in your household be displaying symptoms of COVID-19, you must stay at home and self-isolate in line with government advice. Where necessary, a COVID-19 test should be sought through the NHS website (<https://www.gov.uk/get-coronavirustest>). Under no circumstance should students attend school if they are displaying symptoms, living with someone displaying symptoms, or have tested positive for COVID-19.

Year 11 and Year 13 Road Map to the Summer

Hoodie letters have or are about to be emailed out to all Year 11 students! This year, due to the disruption caused by the pandemic and the wonderful maturity our students have shown, the criteria for being able to wear a hoodie at school has been disapplied. This means that any student who wishes to wear their hoodie instead of their shirt, tie and blazer will be allowed to do so. Hoodies remain entirely optional, and all other items of school uniform are required.

Mr Kirby will be sharing our Year 13 Road Map the tutorial session on Monday. The Year 11 Road Map will be shared in period one on Tuesday. This Road Map will also be shared with parents and carers on Tuesday. The Road Map will include our proposed "Stand Down" date for both year groups and provide further information about Centre Assessment Grades. I want to reassure you

all that we are working hard to support our students to end this academic year feeling confident, supported and successful.

And finally...

Lockdown has been a challenging period for all of us, and we'd like to thank you for your continuing support during this difficult and uncertain time. If you or your child have any concerns about returning to school, or if you think your child might need extra support when they return, please get in touch.

We'd also like to thank you for all your support in helping your child learn from home; but for now, to all our home educators – it's almost time to take a well-deserved break as we look forward to welcoming all students back into the classroom from Tuesday 9th March,

Yours sincerely,

Miriam Oakley
Headteacher
Sherburn High School