

CWO/ppo
13 July 2020



DURRINGTON HIGH SCHOOL

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Dear parent/carer/student

Start to the new school year (provisional arrangements as of 13th July 2020)

Thank you for your continued support, it is very much appreciated in these ever changing times. We are so looking forward to welcoming back all our students in September and as such wanted to provide you with a provisional overview of how the new term will start. A more detailed letter will follow on 20th August. As you will appreciate the planning involved in reopening and reorganising school provision for 5 year groups, 1600+ children and 200+ staff is complex! We want to continue to keep you fully briefed but also not overloaded.

The latest government advice we are working to is linked [here](#). As ever, our priority is the welfare of our students and staff. In order to do this, we will require everyone's support in order to minimise the risk of infection. We ask that you discuss the content of this letter with your son/daughter so that they understand the changes being put in place.

Section 1: Welcoming our students back to school

Term will start for all students on Friday 4th September 2020. This will be an orientation day where students, within year groups (we call each year group a bubble now) will

- meet with their tutors and be visited by their company team staff,
- be updated on how their timetable and the wider school will operate, and also
- some of the exciting plans & opportunities we have for them in the year ahead.

The goal is to get them ready to start on their full timetable on Monday 7th September. All students will need to be in full school uniform and adhere to personal presentation expectations on the orientation day. Full details are on the website and will also be sent out to parents/carers during the summer.

Timings for Friday 4th September

In order to minimise the risk of infection we continue to limit vehicle access to school. This means we require strict adherence to the following year group "bubble" timings. Students must not come onto the site/be dropped off before their stated arrival time slot. Both site entrances (The Boulevard and Rodmill Road) will be in use however no parent/carer (or their vehicles) can come onto site please. On the first day only, we will allow year 7 parents/carers to drop off via their vehicle on the site, however adults must remain within vehicles.

Staff will be on duty and there will be clear signage to support students in how to enter the building safely (handwashing and queueing) and then get to their new tutor rooms.

YR7 students	Arrival slot 10.50am-11am	Finish at 2.15pm (lunch break 1.30-2pm where can bring a packed lunch or use preloaded money you have put onto the system for your child via parentmail. Account and login details will follow late August)
YR 8	Arrival slot 11.20am-11.30am	Finish 1.15pm (no lunch/break provision)
YR 9	Arrival slot 12.05pm-12.15pm	Finish 2.00pm (no lunch/break provision)
YR 10	Arrival slot 11.20am-11.30am	Finish 1.15pm (no lunch/break provision)
YR 11	Arrival slot 11.50am-12.00pm	Finish 2.00pm (no lunch/break provision)

Section 2: Staying safe?

We would ask/encourage every student to bring with them a small bottle of sanitiser and tissues to use during the day.

Travelling to school: Where possible students should walk or cycle to school. If travelling by car, parents / carers must not drive onto the school site to drop students off. For any student who is using public transport additional precautions are required. Please read and ensure your child follows the government guidance which can be found [here](#).

Arrival on site school: Students will be allocated a time to arrive at school. It is imperative that these timings are strictly adhered to, so we can ensure we are able to keep to social distancing on arrival and supervised handwashing. See section 3 below.

Handwashing: All students will be required to wash/sanitise their hands regularly including every morning when they arrive on site. Following arrival on site students will then move directly to their classroom bubble following the signs provided. There has been no direction or expectation issued that children should wear or need to wear any form of PPE/face covering in school.

Student grouping when on site: In line with the Government advice students will work within year group 'bubbles' at all times. Each year group bubble will have a designated area of the school site and allocated classrooms for their lessons. To maintain our broad and balanced curriculum, students will also access specialist subject teaching rooms whenever possible.

Social times: These will be staggered and organised in year group bubbles. Students will be expected (subject to the weather) to spend social times outside of the building after using any canteen facilities/the toilet. There will also be the expectation for them to socially distance and hence no ball games will be possible/allowed at social times.

Personal equipment: To reduce the risk of infection there will be no student locker provision in operation at the start of term. This means students will need a suitable bag to carry with them and be required to bring to school the following personal equipment:

- Stationery / pencil case + in KS3 a reading book
- Water bottle(s) (ideally this should be enough to last them the day)

Please also if you are able to, provide your son/daughter with

- A small bottle of sanitiser for their personal use during the day.
- A pack of tissues to keep with them.

Catering: A full canteen service at breaks and lunchtime will be running (each bubble having a dedicated time and their own service) however there will be no breakfast provision before school.

Mobile phones: Mobile phones are permitted however, as per school expectations, these must not be visible or used when on site (until after the dismissal time at the end of the day). Our advice is to keep them secured in bags and switched off. The school takes no responsibility for the loss of any valuables when on site.

Section 3: Timetable information

In accordance with government guidance we have staggered our timetable to maintain social distancing; the staggering being set up in year group bubbles.

The main impact of this for parents/carers/students will be that start and end times of school will change on a rota for the first part of the Autumn term. The rota is explained in the table below. With more than 1600 students in 5 year groups to bring on and off site safely we ask you (and your child) to strictly observe the timings below.

We will still be operating (as normal) a two week lesson timetable however in-day timings will also be amended to reflect a staggered break and lunch system. Our priority at all times is to reduce the risk of infection whilst still giving students a rich education.

Year group	Weeks commencing Mon 7th and Mon 14th September	Weeks commencing Mon 21st and Mon 28th September	Weeks commencing Mon 5th and Monday 12th October
7	Strict arrival time of between 8.15- 8.25am Finish time 2.45pm	Strict arrival time of between 8.30- 8.40am Finish time 3pm	Strict arrival time of between 8.45-8.55am Finish time 3.15pm
8	Strict arrival time of between 8.30- 8.40am Finish time 3pm	Strict arrival time of between 8.45-8.55am Finish time 3.15pm	Strict arrival time of between 8.15- 8.25am Finish time 2.45pm
9	Strict arrival time of between 8.15- 8.25am Finish time 2.45pm	Strict arrival time of between 8.30- 8.40am Finish time 3pm	Strict arrival time of between 8.45-8.55am Finish time 3.15pm
10	Strict arrival time of between 8.30- 8.40am Finish time 3pm	Strict arrival time of between 8.45-8.55am Finish time 3.15pm	Strict arrival time of between 8.15- 8.25am Finish time 2.45pm
11	Strict arrival time of between 8.45-8.55am Finish time 3.15pm	Strict arrival time of between 8.15- 8.25am Finish time 2.45pm	Strict arrival time of between 8.30- 8.40am Finish time 3pm

Section 4: Systems and standards

All normal systems and expectations for students will recommence in September. The only exception to this will be that from the 7th September, **students who have timetabled PE on that day will be required to wear school PE kit** as there are no changing room facilities currently in operation. Please note that any jumpers/hoodies/tracksuit bottoms that are worn, must meet the school uniform expectations listed below:

- Jumpers/hoodies: *plain navy blue only (with a small thumb sized logo, if they have one). DHS hoodies are available from our uniform suppliers Broadwater Sports and First4Uniform.*
- Tracksuit bottoms: *plain navy blue only. No stripes or coloured panels and any logo must be smaller than thumb sized.*

Please follow the [link](#) for further clarification regarding PE uniform.

We appreciate there is a significant amount of information within this letter and thank you for your time and care in reading it. Most importantly of all are the continued observance of hygiene arrangements, regular hand washing and everyone sticking to the stated year group/bubble arrival and departure times for the first 6 weeks of term (see section 3). This is key for everyone's safety and wellbeing.

We appreciate there is a great deal of information within this first letter (and more to follow) however the more informed we all are, the more we all work together as a team, the safer and easier things will be for each of your children/our students. More information will follow in a letter on Thursday 20th August. If anything significant changes we will be in contact sooner.

We wish you the very best (and a safe) summer.

Yours sincerely

A handwritten signature in blue ink, appearing to read 'C. Woodcock'.

Mr. C Woodcock
Head of School