



July 15<sup>th</sup> 2020

Dear Parents and Carers,

### **New Information Regarding September Arrangements**

We have now had a chance to develop a detailed plan for how we will operate from September, based on Government Guidance which can be found here: <https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/actions-for-schools-during-the-coronavirus-outbreak/guidance-for-full-opening-schools>

We are really looking forward to seeing all of our students back in school at last! We are making significant changes from September to ensure that school is operating as safely as possible for students, staff and families. If the government guidance changes before the start of term, I will keep you informed.

The key headlines of our September model are below. We are keen to gather your views on the changes and to give you an opportunity to raise any queries or concerns. You can do this via our Parent/Carer Response Form here: <https://bit.ly/3h26fzf>

Further details of our September Curriculum Policies and Behaviour Policy will be published on our website in due course and I will write again in August to update you before the start of term.

#### **Are there any changes to term dates? YES**

**Monday September 7<sup>th</sup> : Years 7, 11 and 12**

**Tuesday September 8<sup>th</sup> : Years 8, 9, 10 and 13**

I am very conscious of just how long it is since we have had everyone in school. I hope you will understand that we need the extra two days at the start of term to make the big changes on-site and prepare fully for our new operating model.

#### **Are there any changes to the start of the school day? YES**

The school canteen will be open from 8.00 – 8.30 a.m. for any student wishing to get breakfast or have a quiet place to sit before the school gates open at 8.30.

School gates will open at 8.30 a.m. Year groups will have distinct entrances:

Years 8, 12 and 13 North Zone entrance will be via the North Gate.

Years 9 and 10 East Zone entrance will be via the Belton Grove entrance

Years 7 and 11 West Zone entrance will be from the Bristol Road Entrance (The Fordrough)

Start of Day: Students should arrive in school by 8.45 a.m. and must be in their Period 1 lesson by 8.55 a.m.

#### **Are there any changes to the end of the school day? YES**

The school day will finish earlier than previously at 2.45 p.m.

#### **Will students have to wear full school uniform? YES**

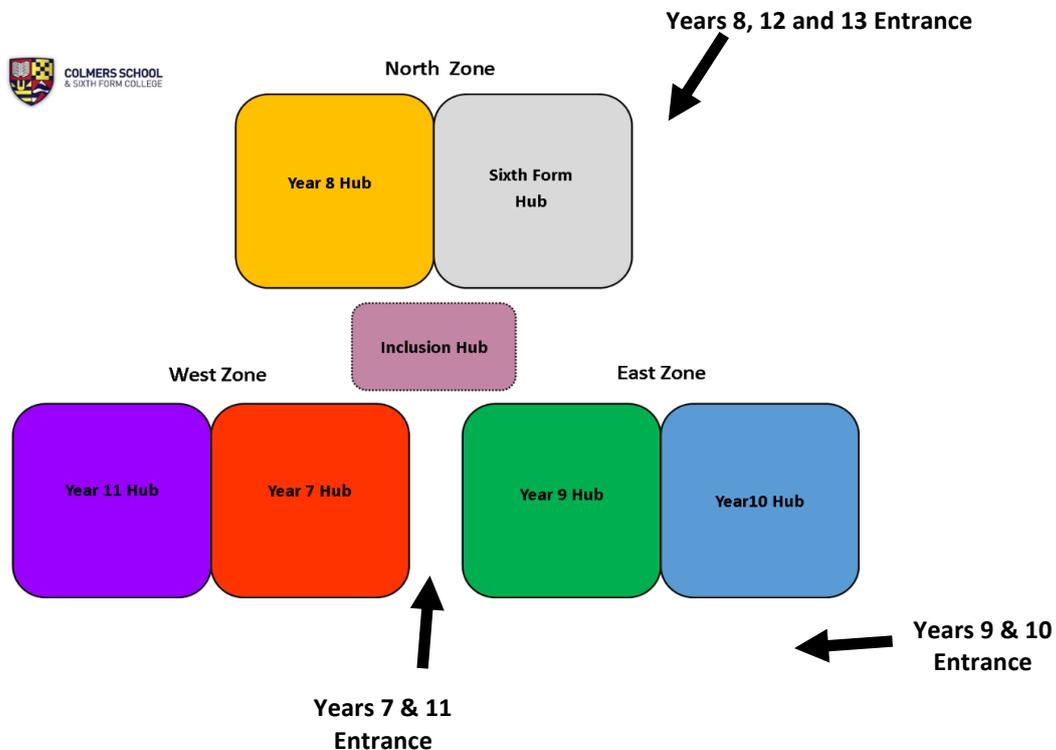
Students need to be in full school uniform. Once timetables have been issued, students will know the days they have PE and will be asked to wear their PE Kit on those days.

If you need assistance with school uniform, please contact School Reception who will be able to advise.

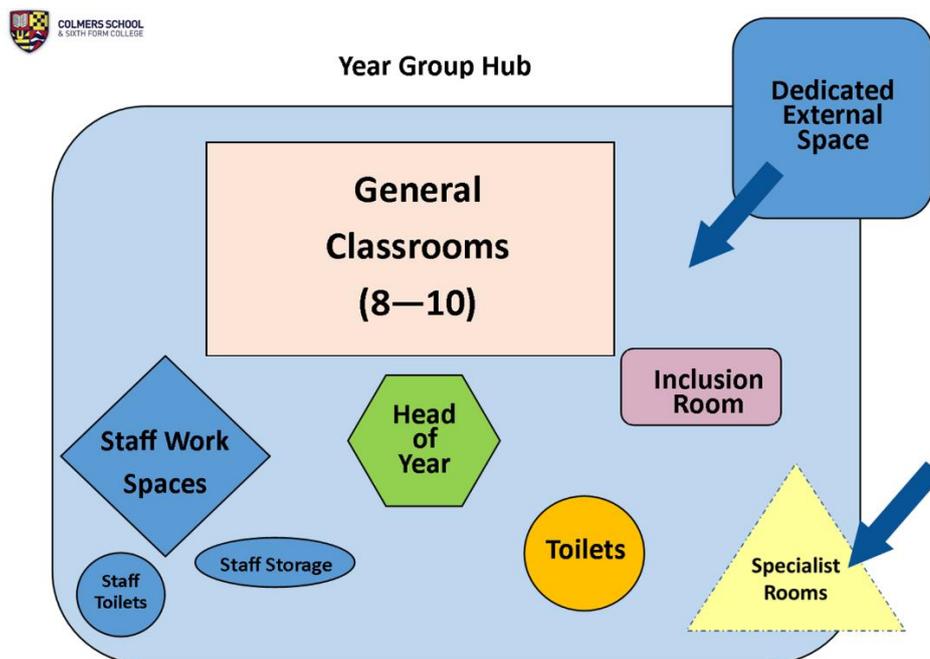
## Is the way the school operates changing in September? YES

From September, our school will be re-organised into **Year Group Hubs**.

The school site will be split into 3 Zones – East, West and North. Each Zone will be home to two year group hubs.



Each Year Hub will have its own entrance, its own classrooms and its own student toilets. Students will not be able to mix with students outside of their Year Hub during the school day. Staff will move between Hubs.



**Is the school still offering all of the curriculum subjects? YES**

We are maintaining a broad and balanced curriculum in all year groups so your child will continue to study all of their subjects. This is really important to us at Colmers.

However, because students need to remain in their Hubs, there will be fewer practical lessons in specialist classrooms. We know this is only temporary so our staff are working hard to make sure that students still benefit from a range of interesting, inspiring and enjoyable learning experiences.

Students will be taught in fewer teaching groups so that they move around less – this will keep us all safer.

**Will my child still have their Form Tutor and Head of Year? YES**

Your child's Form Tutor remains your first point of contact. The time the form group spends with their Form Tutor will not be at the start of every day: instead, each form group will have one lesson a week with their Form Tutor, on a Wednesday afternoon. This will be where they study Learning for Life and this year, we will also have an extra focus on student well-being.

Your child's Head of Year will be based in their Year Hub and will continue to support the whole year group and Tutor Team.

**Is the shape of the school day changing? YES**

Instead of having 5 lessons every day, students will have 3 lessons a day that last 100 minutes each. This allows us to reduce student movement which increases safety in school.

**Will students still have a lunch break? YES**

During Period 2, students will have a **30-minute Brunch in** which they will be able to have a meal from our school catering provider. This is the only time during the school day that students will spend out of lessons.

During period 1 and period 3, students will have a ten-minute break in the lesson in which they may have a snack and take time out from work. They will be supervised by the teacher at all times.

**Can students bring a snack and drink into school? YES**

We really encourage you to send your child in with a snack and a bottle of water for when they have their ten minute lesson breaks in periods 1 and 3. This is especially important because lessons will be longer and hungry teenagers don't concentrate well! Please note students will not be able to fill water bottles in school.

**Can students still top up their food accounts in school? NO**

Students purchasing food in school will need money to be put on their account via ParentPay; they will no longer be able to put cash onto their school accounts from September. If this is likely to cause an issue, please contact School Reception for assistance.

**Do students still need to bring in their equipment? YES**

Students are expected to bring their own basic equipment including a blue or black pen, a red pen, a green pen, pencil, ruler and calculator.

Each student will be provided with a plastic wallet containing a mini-whiteboard and spare equipment for use in all of their lessons.

Students must have a school bag with sufficient capacity to hold their equipment, planner, a drink or snack.

**Will students wear face coverings in school? NO**

Current guidance for schools remains that students and staff are not required to wear face coverings in school. Students travelling by public transport must wear a mask and must have a secure plastic bag or container for storage on arrival into school, before then washing or sanitising their hands.

**Will the school car park be available in September? NO**

Our car park will not be available for drop off or collection of students. Please remember it is not safe to drop off or pick up your child on the Bristol Road or Belton Grove. To keep our students safe, we need those travelling by car to drop off and pick up either at Morrisons or at one of the side roads other than Belton Grove.

Despite these changes, the essence of Colmers remains the same: as ever, we are totally committed to Achieving Excellence through Belonging Together and Challenging Mindsets. We will work hard at the start of term to help our students understand and adapt to the changes, so that they settle quickly into new routines and enjoy being back in school. To help them get ahead on returning to school, do encourage your child to fill in any gaps on work they may have missed since the start of lockdown: all of the work can still be found through our school website.

While it is tempting to hope that the threat of COVID-19 has now passed, the risks will remain very significant for some time. I am acutely aware that many children and families face increasing hardship as a result of the pandemic. Our school reception will remain open over the Summer, however we are not running any other provision from the site over the holidays. Information about local support services will follow in a separate letter from Mr Boardman.

I send my very best wishes to you and yours over the Summer: stay safe, take good care and we look forward to being back together in school in September.



E Leaman  
Headteacher