



Mercia School
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Headteacher: Mr Dean Webster
Chair of Governors: Mrs Rhona Dodds

Our ref: DW/GD

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Dear Parents and Carers

Important School Opening Information

I am delighted to inform you that we are opening Mercia School to Year 7 and Year 8 on a rotation basis before summer. I firmly believe all of our pupils are now vulnerable, whether to significant gaps in learning or to declining mental wellbeing. Being at school is what is best for pupils and we want to put their needs first.

I want all children to return to school for two full weeks, before we have a summer vacation. This means we are extending the school term, to allow all pupils to experience two weeks of school by Friday 31 July. All staff are desperate, like you, to get our pupils back to school. Therefore, we have reduced our planned holiday to allow for crucial teaching time before summer.

Year 7 pupils will attend:

Monday 6 July to Friday 10 July and
Monday 20 July to Friday 24 July

Year 8 pupils will attend:

Monday 13 July to Friday 17 July and
Monday 27 July to Friday 31 July

The alternate weeks when your child is at home they will have homework/ preparation to complete. Given teacher direction, we think this work will be meaningful and appropriate.

Using our extensive building, pupils will be placed in at least nine classes of no more than fifteen pupils. They will be taught Mercia lessons by their teachers in the English Baccalaureate suite of subjects. This will enable us to increase curriculum time for the subjects that are pivotal for success. Equally, it will enable us to teach new content so we can catch up parts of the curriculum that have been missed. This will put Mercia pupils at an advantage.

Pupils will be allocated a classroom and will stay in that classroom all day. Mercia teachers will rotate within a limited number of groups to ensure social mixing is reduced. Pupils will have a break and lunch to ensure some fresh air. Be assured we will be following all government guidelines to ensure pupils and staff are safe.

The school day starts at 8.30am and finishes at 5pm, including Fridays. Pupils are to arrive no earlier than 8.15am and should travel to school on their own. Please do not share cars unless you have a 'bubble' arrangement, in line with government guidance. Pupils must wear their Mercia uniform and be fully equipped. All Mercia rules will be enforced, as normal. Pupils are also to bring their latest booklets - these will be collected in and reviewed on their first day back.

Pupils should also bring a packed lunch so we can reduce interactions and increase safety on site. I suggest a sandwich, fruit and water will be sufficient. Chocolate, sweets, fizzy pop and any other unhealthy alternative are prohibited. Please do not compromise your child by sending inappropriate food items. Remember we are a nut free school due to pupil allergies.

During Mastery time, we will seek to strengthen our values and sense of community. We will teach our children about the injustices that still exist in society and how we can all contribute to a better world. Racial discrimination will be highlighted and the issues taught. This will no doubt be vital teaching for our pupils at this unsettling time. Our very clear principles ensure equality is at the heart of your child's education. Indeed this return to school is centred on safeguarding all we hold dear at Mercia School and your support means so much to us.

We will continue to remain open daily to all children of key workers until Tuesday 21 July.

Pupil and staff safety is paramount. In the event of a positive case I will close affected groups down as an immediate precaution and inform you. This would be precautionary only. Please refer to the school website for details of the safety measures we have put in place.

Please be assured, if I didn't think it was safe to reopen, I wouldn't. Public Health England are aware of our reopening and are satisfied with our risk assessments. Your support is essential to make reopening worthwhile, therefore attendance is expected.

If your child or anyone in your household has symptoms of Covid-19, you must contact school immediately. Equally, if you feel the above arrangements make it impossible for your child to attend, contact us straight away so we can discuss this.

I hope this news greets you well.

I am so looking forward to seeing your child resume lessons before the summer.

Yours faithfully



Dean Webster
Headteacher