



Check in, Catch up, Prepare:

A Summary Return to School Guide for Pupils

As you know, Bishop Vaughan will be reopening after the COVID-19 pandemic on Monday 29th June. This will be a new and challenging experience for all of us.

The key priority is the safety and well-being of all. You will see lots of changes and adjustments in order to keep everyone safe!

We would encourage you to be kind to yourselves and to others. It will be really important to look after your emotional wellbeing.

Some of you will be looking forward to returning to school but may find aspects of being around others frightening and overwhelming. You will have to continue 'social distancing' in school. A lot of you will not have been able to see many people during the past few months. We will be supporting you and helping you all as we get used to being back at school.

The first things you will be doing when you come back to school include:

- Having a safety induction so that you understand all of the changes since you were last in school.
- Re-establishing relationships and reducing any anxieties about returning to school. We will be keen to hear from you about the skills

and personal qualities that they feel they have developed whilst being out of school.

- For pupils in Year 10 and 12, in addition to the above, teachers will focus on preparing you in readiness for work towards future examinations.

'Blended Learning'

You many have heard this phrase during the past few weeks. This is an approach to learning that combines in-class and online learning experiences. As well as having lessons in class, there will still be work to complete online when you are not in school.

If you have difficulties in accessing online work, we will continue to support you and help you take part in this.

The School Day

School will begin at 9am and will finish at 1.30pm. There will be different entry points into school. You will be told in the next few days which entry point you will have to use.

You must arrive on time and as close to 9am as possible. You will not be allowed into school before 9am and if you are more than five minutes late, it will not be possible to let you in.

School Meals

There will be **no food available** at all in school. You must bring snacks from home for you to eat and drink at breaktime. Breaktime will be 25 minutes long.

Classes

You will be placed in group sizes no larger than ten and will typically be supervised by one member of staff throughout your time in the classroom, and one other member of staff during breaktime.

You will be taught in one classroom, instead of moving around the school as you usually do. You will have access to one other space during your breaktime.

You will not be able to sit close to others. Tables and chairs will be a *minimum* of 2 metres apart and classroom and breaktime spaces have been marked out to ensure 3m² per pupil to accommodate for desks, chairs, cupboards and bookcases within the classroom, and allowing 2m² social distancing to be maintained at all times.

You will notice that some furniture has been removed to make sure you can maintain 2m² distancing at all times.

There will be no large group gatherings. Assemblies and Acts of Worship will be livestreamed, recorded or carried out in small group settings.

During breaktimes, as well as during the time spent in the classroom, you will need to keep to social distancing rules.

Safety and keeping clean

You will be required to use hand sanitiser when you arrive at school and to carry out handwashing and further hand sanitisation throughout the school day. **If you are unable or unwilling to do this, you will not be able to return to school at this point in time and will be supported to continue your leaning remotely.** There will be lots of regular handwashing in school.

We will be providing hand sanitiser for you to use, but you are also allowed to bring your own with you.

Every classroom has sanitisation kits including tissues, antibacterial sprays, gloves, etc., in case of need. Tissues will be placed in a separate waste bin and disposed of safely. All rubbish will be removed daily.

You will need to follow the signs and markings around the school building at all times to keep yourselves and others safe.

You should maintain social distancing when travelling to school if you are making your way to school on your own, or using public/school transport.

Behaviour

The new situation in schools requires a new level of behaviour and maturity and all pupils must behave in a manner that does not put the safety of others at risk.

- The Discipline for Learning policy will remain in place and will be rigorously enforced.
- Any pupil who cannot follow the existing school rules and/or the new social distancing rules will be warned once and removed from lessons on a second offence.
- If a pupil is removed from a lesson then a parent/ carer will be contacted and it will be requested that the pupil is collected from school immediately.
- Consequences for removal will depend on the severity of the offence. Serious breaches of social distancing or deliberate acts of coughing,

spitting, etc. will result in an **immediate fixed-term or permanent exclusion**.

- Deliberate coughing or spitting directly at another person will be considered a violent/ aggressive act and will likely result in **permanent exclusion**.
- Any pupil that has been excluded will not be able to return until an updated risk assessment is in place with the agreement of the parent/ carer.

Equipment and Resources

You should bring a pencil case with the usual equipment in them. You **should not share or supply other pupils** with equipment.

Spare equipment will be available. It will be given to you and not shared or returned.

Most work will be completed on laptops/computers wherever possible. These will be used by one pupil only on any given day and sanitised daily at the end of the school session.

There will be no practical lessons that require the sharing of tools or equipment.

School Uniform

You do not have to wear uniform for the remainder of this term. Many of you may have grown out of your uniform and we do not want parents and carers to buy you new uniform before September.

You should to wear clothing that is comfortable and to avoid bringing in any items that are not strictly essential, such as numerous layers of clothing, or items other than a pencil case, a drink and a snack.

You **do not** need to wear PPE such as a face mask.

School buses

If you have already told us that you will be coming back to school and travel by school bus, a place has already been booked for you. Drivers will have lists of who to expect on their buses every day. Your buses will collect you from your usual pick up points each morning. **The buses will be picking up approximately 10 to 15 minutes later than usual.** This is so that you can arrive at school as close to 9am as possible.

Which days will I be in school?

- Year 7: Wednesday 1st July, Thursday 2nd July, Friday 3rd July
- Year 8: Wednesday 8th July, Thursday 9th July, Friday 10th July
- Year 9: Wednesday 15th July, Thursday 16th July, Friday 17th July
- Year 10: Monday 29th June, Tuesday 30th June, Monday 13th July, Tuesday 14th July
- Year 12: Monday 6th July, Tuesday 7th July, Wednesday 15th July, Thursday 16th July, Friday 17th July

We had planned that Years 11 and 13 would have been in school from Monday 20th July for their own catch up sessions. Following the announcement that schools will be open for three weeks, not four, we are

looking at provision for these year groups and information will be given as soon as possible.

Other Sources of Support and Advice

While we have tried to answer any questions that you may have in this summary guide, you will may still have questions relating to the re-opening of schools. The Local Authority helpline to assist you and your parents/carers in relation to these can be reached on these numbers:

01792 636033 and 01792 636034

Further Links

Swansea Virtual Learning School:

<https://swanseavirtualschool.org/>

Schools - Frequently Asked Questions:

<https://www.swansea.gov.uk/returntoschoolFAQs>

Exchange Counselling:

<https://www.exchange-counselling.com/>

Cruse Bereavement Support:

<https://www.cruse.org.uk/get-help/local-services/wales/morgannwg>

Swansea Council Coronavirus Advice:

<https://www.swansea.gov.uk/coronavirusadvice>

Swansea Council School Information:

<https://www.swansea.gov.uk/schoolsandlearning>