



# Back to school

Our plans for the September return



# MESSAGE FROM THE HEAD

Dear Parents

Well, what a term! How I have wished that I could predict the future over these last few months. We have made plans, more plans and then replanned. as guidance has changed, often in the space of a day or two. We have guessed, second-guessed and then guessed again what the government guidance would be and how it would impact our school community. I do hope that one thing has been constant during this period, however, our unwavering dedication to do the very best for our students.

I was so pleased that the efforts made to re-open school safely for the selected year groups have been recognised by you. In the recent survey 94% of you agreed that both you as a family and your child benefited from going back to back to school, 97% agreed that that the return to school process was well managed by the school, and 97% thought that every possible risk mitigation that the school could have taken was taken. Some of your lovely comments are included at the back of this document. Thank you also for the ideas and suggestions that some of you made as we turn our attention to September.

We do not know for certain what September will bring but we have made plans based on a number of scenarios and have closely followed the evolving government advice. By imagining and then planning for the different possible scenarios we will be faced with in September I believe we are set up to step into the new academic year with confidence and vigour.

One overall reflection I have is that I want our school to preserve the best that came from this period – how our staff adapted their educational methods, how we embraced a new way of doing things, how the students coped with uncertainty and change, and how we built a new and deeper relationship with you, our parent body. We will, of course, be continuing with our enhanced cleaning regime next year and you can help too by making regular hand washing a part of your daily child's routine during the holidays.

With that context in mind I am excited to share with you some exciting new initiatives, as part of the Cognita family of schools, later on in this booklet. These initiatives will capitalise on what we have learned over the last few months, take our educational and wellbeing provision for your child to the next level, and prepare us should a second wave require a localised lockdown.

Thank you once again for your support of the school this Summer Term, and for your encouragement and feedback. I wish you all a happy and safe summer and look forward to an exciting new academic year.

As ever, please do let me know if you have any questions.

Warmest Wishes

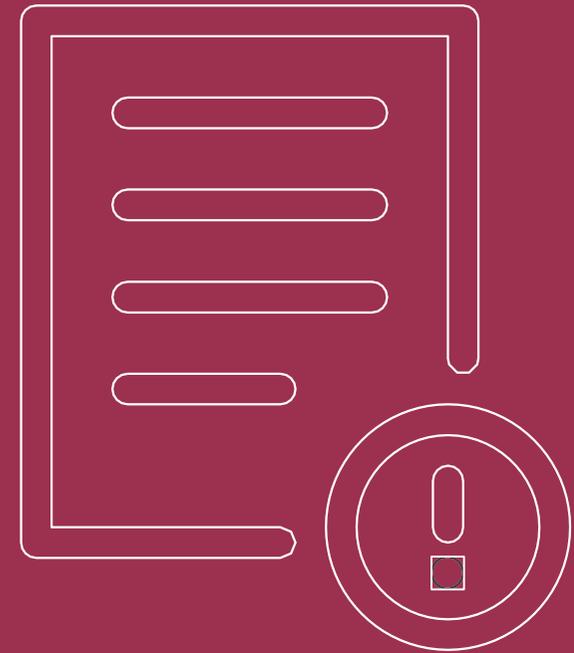


Mrs Clare Page  
Head



# HIGHLIGHTS FOR NEXT YEAR

1. Back to normal - this means open and running a normal day for all year groups, within the government guidelines.
2. Catch up support - for any students who we feel would benefit from revisiting any subject learning post lockdown.
3. Wellbeing - a focus on both students and staff to help them emotionally process the lockdown experience.
4. Safety – risk mitigation to include enhanced cleaning and hygiene measures with new procedures for confirmed cases and outbreaks.
5. Growth mindset - taking the lockdown experience and continuing to innovate and grow from what we have learnt.

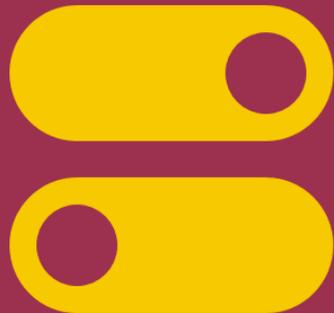
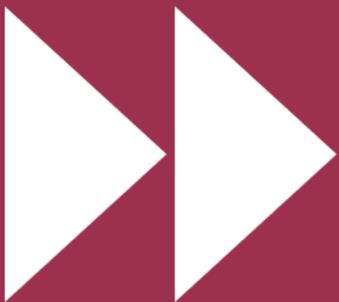


# HOW WILL IT WORK?

We have done a large amount of scenario planning and we are confident that we can get back to normal.

The latest government guidelines have significantly reduced the need for social distancing and as a result schools will be encouraged to return to a full timetable for all year groups.

This is great news and to the right is a summary of what we know now. This is, of course, conditional on the continued downward trend of the infection rate.



# GUIDANCE SUMMARY

*Based on the government guidance released on 2 July this is what we are basing our planning on:*

- Primary - the bubble concept will be increased from a maximum of 15 to a year group sized bubble. This means our classes can return as full year groups.
- Specialist teachers will be able to move between classes provided they maintain social distancing.
- Some of the features from this term will need to remain such as staggered timings and one-way systems, as will a focus on hygiene and cleaning. More detail will follow before the start of next term.
- School services such as catering and transport can return to relative normality with some adaptations to mitigate viral spread.
- Track and trace in school will be a focus

# NEW INITIATIVES FOR NEXT YEAR

*During the lockdown period we began work on a number of initiatives that have enabled us to lead the way in online learning and teaching and we intend to build on this next year.*



- **Masterclasses** - our teachers have benefited from working with global experts on how to build curriculums that offer a **blended educational experience** and how we can approach **assessment** of student's progress in new ways
- **Partnerships** - with innovative learning platforms that use artificial intelligence to create adaptive and personalised learning paths for students – more 'books' on our shared 'virtual bookshelf'



- **Wellbeing monitoring** – For Years 4, 5 and 6 we will be introducing **AS (Affective Social) Tracking**, an adolescent mental health tracking tool that enables schools to identify pupils' hidden risks early. This equips teachers with targeted action plans to reduce pupil mental health and wellbeing risks and is part of our commitment to putting mental health and wellbeing at the centre of a well-balanced education.



- **Collecting the best content from our global family** - as a Group we are developing an online platform which will host bespoke content curated from our expert educationalists from across our 80 schools. It is early days for this exciting project so more to follow soon.

# FAQS



## **WILL THERE BE AN ANNUAL INCREASE TO FEES NEXT YEAR?**

No. Given the exceptional circumstances, the economic situation and the value we place on our relationship with our parent cohort there will be no fee increase for the 2020/21 school year.

## **WILL SCHOOL TRANSPORT RESUME?**

Yes. However, this may not resume until October half term. We are following government advice closely on this and working with our Cognita transport department. Risk mitigations we are investigating are the suitability of face coverings (like on public transport) and cleaning regimes, and route reviews.

## **ARE SPORTS, CLUBS & TRIPS RETURNING?**

Yes, where possible. We are keen to return to 'business as usual' as much as possible, and this component of education is important.

Certain non-contact sports are approved, and clubs can generally re-start, although there are some restrictions in the latest guidance that we will work through over the summer. We are also planning to have the wrap around care offer of before and after school clubs.

Domestic trips are permitted, but not residential. Overseas trips are not yet permitted. We keep a sharp eye on government advice on these topics as guidance changes frequently.

## **WHAT ABOUT INFECTION CONTROL?**

We will continue our robust cleaning regime next year and work closely with our cleaning staff to ensure every possible risk mitigation is taken.

We are also reviewing our infection control procedures over the Summer to allow us to track confirmed or suspected cases and communicate with parents in the smoothest way possible.

## **WHAT ABOUT LOCAL LOCKDOWNS?**

We are planning in detail what happens if the school needs to temporarily close in the case of an outbreak or localised lockdown. If the call comes we can respond quickly, following a pre-agreed plan.

## **WILL CATERING RETURN TO NORMAL?**

Yes. We may need to operate staggered mealtimes, and apply some other operational safeguards, but we intend to return to catering as it was before as far as we can, within the guidelines.

# RETURN TO SCHOOL SURVEY RESULTS

**97%** of parents agreed that their child benefitted returning to school

**91%** of parents agreed that their family benefitted from the return to school

**97%** of parents agreed that the return to school process was well managed by the school

**97%** of parents agreed every possible risk mitigation that could have been taken was taken by the school

# THANK YOU FOR THE POSITIVE FEEDBACK

- I feel the planning for re-opening has been carried out very thoroughly, with excellent and timely communications to parents.
- King's staff have been fantastic at managing morning and collection parent traffic. Social distancing and hand hygiene have been effectively implemented and the children have adapted well to their new school routine.
- The staggering times for dropping and collecting children is a really good way to reduce numbers congregating and I hope this remains in place for September.
- Kings have done a remarkable job both in home schooling and returning children to the classroom.
- The teachers have been outstanding in their caring attitude and helpfulness.