

Dear parents and carers

Following on from my correspondence with you last Friday I write to you again about our plans to welcoming back students to Fortis Academy on Monday 7th September. There is also important advice that will help keep people safe and keep our school open once the school term begins.

The evidence is becoming clearer about the risk of Covid-19 in schools. Children have lower rates of infection and generally much milder forms of the virus if they contract it. Child-to-child transmission in schools is rare and serious outbreaks in schools are unusual. However, we have prepared extensively to minimise the risk of transmission.

As a reminder, each year group will be taught as consistent groups, or self-contained bubbles, throughout a school day. Each year group will also arrive to school, leave from school and have their lessons and lunchtimes at different times to other year groups.

In classrooms, teachers will be required to keep a 2 metre distance from students, and students a 1 metre distance from other students within their consistent bubbles. Every classroom has a sanitizer dispenser, a stock of cleaning products to keep the environment clean, will be ventilated through open windows where possible and be additionally cleaned before and after school by our cleaning team. Tables have also been placed to face forwards to avoid any face-to-face arrangements and it is important that every student brings and keeps their own equipment every day.

At lunchtime, a reduced menu will be offered but hot food will be included and both canteens have been socially-distance marked for students to eat safely. Each year group will also have their own outside space to enjoy lunchtimes and the mid-morning break. Please note that no food or drink will be provided at break time, so we advise your child to bring a drink and a snack if this is something they are used to.

It is a requirement of ours to ensure that students have access to water throughout the day so please ensure your child is able to bring a water bottle to school each day. They will be able to fill up their bottles before school and during lunchtimes only.

As you know, we strongly encourage students and staff to wear masks in communal areas of the school, such as the school corridors. Furthermore, full assemblies have been postponed until further notice, but will either be delivered through smaller *mini-assemblies*, live-streamed or by video recordings. This will ensure that students do not miss out on important messages and presentations. The staffroom will also be carefully managed to ensure limited numbers and social-distancing are adhered to.

We are confident that keeping to the basics will help everyone to stay safe and the school to stay open so that students can learn, socialise, grow, learn and achieve once more.

As a reminder, the basics are:

- Regular hand washing
- Basic hygiene, e.g. Catch it, Bin it, Kill it
- Social distancing
- No touching of own face
- Hands off other students
- No loitering in groups outside of the school gates
- Following NHS advice if symptoms arise, i.e. self-isolation and testing

It is vitally important that you inform the school if your child or any member of your household is required to self-isolate. Undoubtedly, we will let you know if your child has had to be isolated by us at the school.

Please be assured that any deliberate breaches of the basics listed above or any other important rule, will be treated as a serious offence by the school, with the likely result of students being excluded, sent home, and a meeting with parents arranged to prevent any repeat.

We know that many students and families will have anxieties about their return and with this in mind we will be following the **#you'vebeenmissed** campaign and using some of the wonderful resources to create a smooth transition back to school. These resources are available to staff, students and parents and can be found at <https://bwc.nhs.uk/youve-been-missed>. They include information and support with regards to anxiety, worry, self-care, routines, transition and sleep. You can also follow the campaign on Twitter for more upcoming information [@BWC_NHS](https://twitter.com/BWC_NHS).

If you have any remaining concerns with regards to attendance please contact e.painter@fortis.shaw-education.org.uk, e.mallett@fortis.shaw-education.org.uk or your child's Director of Year, who will be listed in the table below.

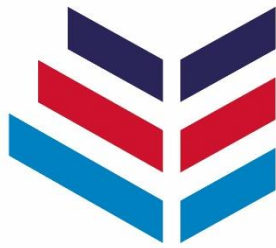
Attached also, are a selection of photos illustrating how the school has been prepared for students' safe return on Monday.

My very best wishes

A Otero

Alberto Otero
Campus Principal

Year Group	Director of Year's email address
7	h.astle@fortis.shaw-education.org.uk
8	f.raza@fortis.shaw-education.org.uk
9	s.williams@fortis.shaw-education.org.uk
10	d.beale@fortis.shaw-education.org.uk
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