

The Elton High School

Information for Parents/Carers/Students

Plans for Re-Opening — September 2020

Background



On 2 July the government published guidance for students' return to schools for September 2020. The government notes that "the balance of risk is now overwhelmingly in favour of children returning to school. For the vast majority of children, the benefits of being back in school far outweigh the very low risk from coronavirus. We are therefore asking schools to prepare to welcome all children back this autumn." The guidance includes information about putting measures into place which reduce risk levels and promote a safer environment. The main consideration for Elton High is how to follow the guidance about minimising contact between individuals and maintaining social distancing wherever possible. It is advised that schools "look to implement year group bubbles... with steps taken to limit interaction, sharing of rooms and social spaces between groups."

The above advice needs to be balanced with our obligation at Elton to provide a high quality education that enables students to thrive and make progress. **The details set out below are aimed at reducing levels of contact and risk within school, while maintaining a level of normality for the students and staff.**

Transport

Students are encouraged to walk/ride to school wherever possible. Those students getting a bus must follow the government's guidance and wear face masks on the bus. When they arrive at the school site, there will be facilities to dispose of their used masks if they wish. Staff will be present to supervise that this is done correctly.

Start of Day

The building will be opened at 8:40am for the first lesson of the day which starts at 8:45am. Unlike previous years, the canteen and Library will be closed before school and students must wait in designated outside areas around the school site.

Year 7/8 will go to the back and side of the main school building. Years 9/10/11 will wait on the yards in separate areas. Staff will be on hand to supervise the students. From 8:40am, the students will come into the school building with different entrances for each year group.

Year 9 will enter the building by the front staircase to the right hand side of reception, Years 7/8 enter the building at the KS3 staircase (far left hand side of building), while Years 10/11 enter the building at the KS4 staircase (opposite sports hall).

Duty staff will be present at each entrance to ensure that students are directed in the right way. Sanitising stations will be set up at each entrance and in every classroom for students to clean their hands at the start of the day.

Format of School Day

Our school day has been altered, with Periods 2 and 4 being increased so that break and lunch can be included for each year group in those slots. Form period/assemblies have been moved to the end of the day to enable a slightly staggered finish (see later section).

Period 1—8.45am – 9.45am

Period 2—9.45am – 11.00am

Period 3—11.00am – 12.00pm

Period 4—12.00pm – 1.30pm

Period 5—1.30pm – 2.30pm

Classroom Organisation

There will be hand sanitisers at the entrance to each classroom and fixed sanitiser stations have been placed around the school building. Lessons will be taught, as usual, with doors open and (where practical) windows open. Seating will be arranged with students facing the front of the room. In rooms where students are facing towards each other (e.g. ICT rooms) clear screens will be installed to limit direct face-to-face contact.

Timetable and Curriculum

Our aim is to ensure that students experience a balanced, challenging, enjoyable curriculum in as normal an environment as can be reasonably expected. The full curriculum will be delivered but the timetable has been altered to (wherever possible) create double lessons so that movement around the school can be reduced. In the event of a localised lockdown or students having to self-isolate, a remote curriculum will be ready and in place for students to access.

Lesson Changeover

We already have a one-way system which is established across the school and this will continue to be followed on all three floors as usual. Further to this, we are opening all four stairwells (three outer and one central) for use by the students between lesson changeover. This will limit the numbers of students at key points of the building.

- Current up/down stairwells to remain
- Central stairs to be down
- Third stairwell to be up

Signs/reminders will be placed at relevant points around the building.

Breaktime

Within Period 2, breaks for separate year groups will take place at the following times:

9.45am - 10.00am – Year 7

10.00am - 10.15am – Year 10

10.15am - 10.30am – Year 9

10.30am - 10.45am – Year 8

10.45am - 11.00am – Year 11

During the break, students will be able to go to the canteen to purchase a hot snack and also pre-order their lunch as required. There will be no seating available in the canteen so students will be asked to go outside for the rest of their break. In the event of a wet break, students will stay in the canteen and also access the main hall. There will be free standing tables in the canteen which will be cleaned after each session.

Lunchtime

We encourage students to bring packed lunch to school. However, the canteen will be open to serve some hot, takeaway meals and sandwiches. Students will be able to pre-order at the designated machines at breaktime.

Within Period 4, lunch break for separate year groups will be as follows:

11.45am—12.30pm—Year 7 (*45 minutes allocated to ease their transition to lunch arrangements*)

12.15pm – 12.45pm – Year 10

12.30pm – 1.00pm – Year 9

12.45pm – 1.15pm – Year 8

1.00pm – 1.30pm – Year 11

Each year group will eat at the numerous seating areas outside the building. Food will be served in take-away trays and different meals will be provided during the week. From late October, all students will be provided with a card to make contactless payments on their school dinner accounts. However, until that point all payments can only be

made using the online system – cash cannot be brought into school for dinner payments. If you are not registered for the online system then please do so through www.bury.gov.uk/payforit (and select ‘School payments’). If you need to know your child’s UPR number, then ring our school office (0161 7631434 or email school through the main address). There will be designated areas outside for the different year groups making full use of the yard areas – with only two year groups having lunch at any one time, there will be more space for the students and this will limit any mixing during the cross-over period. In the event of wet lunch, students may need to go back to their classroom area for the latter part of the session. The main hall will also be used to provide additional flexibility.

End of Day

The final session of the day is 2.30pm—3.00pm for form time/assemblies. There will be a staggered end to the day with year groups dismissed at different times as follows:-

- Year 7 – 2:50pm
- Year 10 – 2:53pm
- Year 9 – 2:55pm
- Year 8 – 2:58pm
- Year 11 – 3:00pm

Staff will walk out with the students at the designated time. Duty staff will ensure that students sit on buses in year groups and will be on hand to ensure that there is a settled, ordered departure from the school site.

Attendance

Normal processes will be in place, with the government directing all schools to follow up absences as usual, with penalties put in place for non-attendance as necessary.

Uniform/PE Kit

School uniform expectations are unchanged and we are proud of how our students present themselves on a daily basis. However, we will not be able to provide changing room facilities for PE. Therefore, when a student is timetabled to have PE, **they must come into school in their PE kit and wear it for that school day.** Please ensure that students have the correct footwear for the new 3G pitch.

Student Support and Care

Form activities will provide support to address issues of wellbeing, friendship, engagement.

Ms Edwards will provide focused support for key groups and students, based on feedback collected to date.

Communication with Parents/Carers

The Elton Times newsletter will be sent on a fortnightly basis as usual and we will be providing additional updates whenever necessary. The full list of staff contact details are on the school website whilst the Headteacher can be contacted directly through the following email address: wiltonj@eltonhigh.bury.sch.uk

August 2020