



NEWSLETTER • AUTUMN TERM ISSUE 17 • 25TH SEPTEMBER 2020

Dates For Your Diary

Monday 26 th – Friday 30 th October	Half Term
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Letter from the Headteacher

Dear Parents / Carers,

Thank you for your continued support in getting all pupils back into school safely over the past month. All of us are committed to providing the best education possible for your child, while securing the health and safety of our whole school community. Thank you for continuing to follow public health guidelines and encouraging your children to do the same.

You are already aware of the steps we have put in place to ensure the safe return of all pupils to school. We know that you will be keen to understand the impact that we have had in our first weeks of the term, and what our plans are to ensure all pupils catch up with any missed learning, and what will happen if pupils are asked to stay at home over the coming months.

That is why I am writing to you today in order to keep you fully informed.

School Reopening	<p>Following previous correspondence, you will be aware that we are operating a 'bubble' system on site. This is to allow us to quickly trace any students who may have been in contact with a confirmed case of Covid-19.</p> <p>All students receive a break and a lunchtime every day, where they have access to facilities.</p> <p>All students have access to the site from 8.15am and have to wash hands on their way to their form groups. School starts for all students at 8.35am.</p> <p>There are separate entrances for each year group for entry and exit at the school. There is, therefore, no need for a staggered start and end to the day.</p> <p>Use of facemasks in communal areas is expected.</p>
Attendance	<p>We are incredibly pleased with attendance that we are currently seeing from both of our year groups at the school. Whole school attendance, as of the week ending 18th of September, was 96.6%. For the last academic year, by the week ending 13th of March it stood at 95.7%.</p>
Coverage of the Curriculum	<p>We are currently offering the full curriculum of subjects to all students, with some amendments to subjects such as Technology and Science. This is necessary to reflect the fact that students are working in standard classrooms for the majority of the time, rather than workshops or laboratories.</p> <p>We have provided you with details of our curriculum for the Autumn term. This is also available on our website.</p> <p>Assessment is a key element in our curriculum. The majority of subjects will set assessments during the course of the term. This will contribute to the process of identifying gaps that will be addressed through subsequent teaching, to add to our process of identifying gaps in knowledge, enable teachers to identify gaps in learners' knowledge and to address these in future teaching.</p>

<p>Remote Learning in the Future</p>	<p>In the event of future whole school or partial closures, we will endeavour to provide as much curriculum continuity for our students as possible. This means staff will set daily work for the lessons they would have taught that day, and all students will receive five lessons worth of work per day. Students and parents will be urged to ensure that they only spend one hour on each lesson, and to submit the required work that day. This should avoid any learners being overwhelmed. English, Maths and Science will require one piece of work for submission and assessment each week; other subjects will require one submission per fortnight.</p> <p>We are in the process of auditing the devices and internet access our students have at home and will do all that we can to support students with limited access. Where necessary we will continue to provide work packs for students to ensure that no student is left behind.</p>
<p>Mental Health and Wellbeing</p>	<p>We are continuing to support students who are experiencing emotional wellbeing and mental health difficulties. Each year group has a pastoral team, who they can ask to see if they are experiencing a difficulty. Students can also contact their tutor or a support worker if they require help. We have added information on mental health and wellbeing to the tutor programme for students to be comfortable returning to school and to be aware of strategies and pathways to help in difficulties.</p> <p>Support staff and pastoral teams are continuing to support students who have previously had some 1:1 or group support to determine how interventions for SEMH may resume.</p> <p>We have also welcomed back our local church Youth Mentor who will be restarting some of the support last year to develop healthy communication skills and relationships. We continue to access all the external agency support we did previously on behalf of and for our students, such as the Children's Society, EWMHS and Young Carers. In addition to this, we have continued with some specialist support for pupils whose transition to secondary school has been exceptionally impacted by the difficulties experienced at the end of primary school.</p> <p>Before our return to school we conducted a wellbeing survey for students which enabled us to respond to student needs. This has helped with staff and pupil confidence to gather information regarding the varied impact upon pupils' well-being and mental health. We will conduct a similar survey in the coming weeks; this will also be used to inform us on future provision and engagement with supporting pupils' well-being and mental health.</p>

Thank you for your support in these challenging times. Please remember to follow both the school's and public health guidance to keep everyone learning safely.

Mrs CA Moffat
Headteacher

Autumn Term PSHE

Over the course of the year students will be covering a range of topics in PSHE during form time. To encourage critical thinking and to promote wellbeing, do ask them questions and have conversations with them about the world around them and how they feel. This half term is based around **Wellbeing**.

Ms Newman

Week Commencing	07/09/20	14/09/20	21/09/20	28/09/20	05/10/20	12/10/20	19/10/20
Year 7	Dealing with Change / Transition	Introduction to PSHE	Study Skills	Bullying and 'BANTA'	What is Cyber Bullying?	Safe Social Media	Tutor Talk Time / Review Understanding
Year 8	Self Confidence & Goal Setting	Behaviour to Achieve	Mindfulness	Stereotypes	Self Esteem	Body Image	Tutor Talk Time / Review Understanding

Student Absence

Please remember to follow our absence procedure for any student not attending school. You must telephone the school office or Student Absence Line on 01206 671155 before 8.20am on the first day of absence, explaining the reason for absence.

It is important that you maintain contact and telephone us to report absence **on every morning that your son/daughter is not in school**, regardless of whether the student has continuing illness, is awaiting a Covid-19 test or is isolating.

Thank you for your cooperation and support.

Census Day

It is Census Day on 1st October 2020, which is when the Government captures who is in school on this particular day and calculates the school meal funding accordingly. We need help from parents to ensure that the school receives the highest amount of free school meal funding as possible. It would therefore benefit us if you would please allow your child to have a free meal on this day if they are eligible.

We are also aware that the circumstances of many families in our community may have changed as a result of the pandemic. If this applies to you and you think that your child may qualify for free school meals, please use the following link to make an application as soon as you can: <https://www.cloudforedu.org.uk/ofsm/ofsm-east>.

Music Clubs

We are proud to offer our students an opportunity to be part of our music and performing arts clubs. Starting next week, we will be running four extracurricular lunchtime clubs to enable students to take part in a variety of activities tailored to suit their taste in music and performing arts.

In Guitar Club, students will be learning guitar technique while playing the greatest guitar tunes of all time and perhaps become the new Oasis!

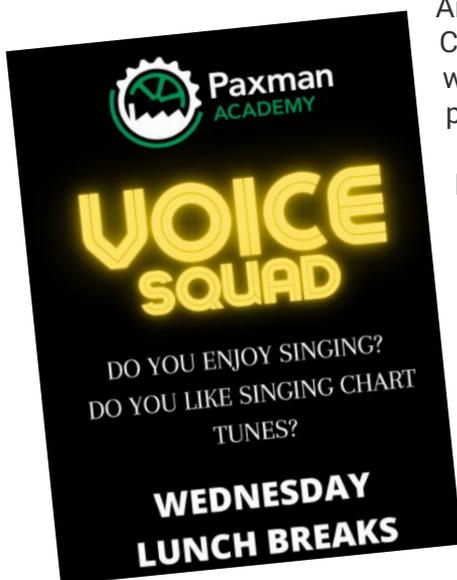
During Musical Theatre Group, students will sing the most iconic tunes, from Broadway to the West End, while learning some stagecraft in preparation for Paxman Academy's first stage production, planned to take place towards the end of the academic year.

An ensemble of voices will enjoy singing Pop Charts and Tik Tok Tunes in Voice Squad, working on harmonies and solos to then perform for others.

Finally, Ukulele Club will allow students to play tunes on a fun, cool and 'take everywhere you go instrument'.

These clubs are an opportunity for your child to socialise, make friends and boost their confidence while sharing a common passion for music and the performing arts. Please be assured, we will be running the clubs for Years 7 and 8 at the same time but in separate bubbles. Some of our staff have kindly offered to help with the clubs and I would like to thank them for sacrificing their lunchtime in order to make these activities possible.

Mr Damigella
Teacher of Music



Face Coverings

Disposable face coverings are important in a range of settings but to save money and be more environmentally aware, I have attached a simple diagram to help you make a washable and reusable face covering. This can be made from a cotton or cotton blend pillowcase with a little elastic, or an old T-shirt cut into strips and pulled to create four stretchy ties.

Ms Newman

Head of Art / Technology / Performing Arts

