



September 2021 Reopening

Dear parents/carers

We are really looking forward to welcoming all students back into the school from Monday 6th September 2021 and as such wanted to give you some more information to keep you informed of what to expect, and the updated requirements during the school day.

As a School we are all excessively proud of how staff and students have continued to demonstrate resilience, cooperation and compassion throughout the restrictions and we are looking forward to getting the students back to a greater normality including being able to interact more freely as we did prior to the pandemic 18 months ago.

The government has announced that we are able to remove the vast majority of restrictions that we still had in place in July, details of which you will find below. Please be assured we will continue to prioritise the health and wellbeing of our full school community and will react and respond quickly and efficiently should the need arise to adapt our plans and risk assessments

Returning To School

When students return all remaining protocols regarding bubbles, separate entrances, exits and social areas, including staggered timings of the day will cease.

Reminder

Timings of the school day

8.30 - 8.45 Tutor Period / Assembly

8.45 - 10.05 Period 1

10.05 - 11.25 Period 2

11.25 - 11.55 Break

11.55 - 13.10 Period 3

13.10 - 13.45 Lunch

13.45 - 15.00 Period 4

On the first day students should go straight to their form rooms (same location as before the Summer) where they will be issued with their new timetables. Students should be in full uniform with tie, blazer and appropriate footwear

Lunch / Break Arrangements

Food will be available in the canteen during both breaks and a reminder the canteen is also open for breakfast from 7.45am. Students will be able to access water fountains in school.

Ventilation and Hygiene measures

We will continue to ventilate all areas to increase airflow in and around our sites, this will include leaving doors and windows open where it is safe and practical to do so, whilst ensuring that a comfortable temperature for learning is maintained.

We will continue to provide enhanced cleaning throughout the day, including toilet facilities and classrooms, with a focus on frequently touched surfaces. Students will be actively encouraged to wash their hands regularly and hand sanitiser will still be available across the site to be used on arrival to school, between lessons, as well as before and after eating.

As in the Summer term, we no longer require students or staff to wear face coverings. However, we will support anyone wishing to wear one. Any face covering needs to be of a plain print and worn sensibly. Face coverings are no longer required on WPT transport, but please check with your service provider as to requirements on services buses, etc.

Enrichment activities

We are pleased to be able to offer a full programme of enrichment activities on our return in September. Form tutors will provide information on the activities available during tutor time.

All students can now utilise the changing rooms for P.E. and Sports Clubs, and all previous restrictions on practical lessons, including those in the Performing Arts faculty, have been lifted. Students therefore should come in FULL uniform everyday bringing their P.E. kit with them in a bag in preparation for practical lessons.

We will be restarting full year group assemblies from the first week back and are excited to be able to once again plan for celebration events

NHS Test and Trace, COVID-19 testing and Attendance

As per our previous correspondence, we will be offering all students two onsite tests on their return to school. We intend to do this with minimum disruption to teaching and learning. Further details will be shared shortly. All students will be expected to be back into the Academy on Monday 6th September at 8.30am.

Students should now only self-isolate if they have one or more COVID-19 symptoms, if they have had a positive COVID-19 test or if they have been told to quarantine after travel abroad. Any student who has one or more COVID-19 symptoms should self-isolate until they have taken a PCR test. If this test is negative they should return to school. Any student who receives a positive test result using a lateral flow test, should self-isolate whilst they take a PCR test. If PCR this test is taken within 48 hours of the lateral flow test and the result is negative, they are then able to return to school.

Under the new government rules, those up to 18 years and 6 months of age no longer need to self-isolate if they are a close contact of a positive COVID-19 case.

In line with government guidance the school will no longer routinely carry out any routine contact tracing.

Risk Assessment

If you would like to read our Risk Assessment (September 2021) this is available via our website or via email admin@thegainsboroughacademy.org.uk and request for this to be emailed to you directly.

Thank you again for taking the time to read this update, apologies for its length but I felt it was important to give you all the current information needed to help support a positive return for all.

I am looking forward to meeting and working with you all during the autumn term.

Kind regards

Rachael Skelton
Headteacher