

Return to school – September 2020

Information to prepare for a safe and profitable return for all members of our community.

Dear Parents / Carers,

Ref: Return to School for all Year Groups – September 2020

I hope that you and your families have remained safe and managed to have an enjoyable summer break despite the many challenges.

The Department for Education announced in July 2020 that all schools will be open for all Year Groups in September 2020. Staff here at Portchester Community School have been busy making preparations for a safe and positive return. In this letter I will outline for you key dates and information for your child's return to school.

New Year 7 students will start on **Friday 4th September 2020**. Students are to enter via the main school drive where they will be directed by staff down the service road to their Tutor Group Fire Assembly point. Students arriving by School Transport will be taken to their Fire Assembly Points by members of the Learning Support Team.

Year 7 students will be; met by their Tutors, formally welcomed to Portchester Community School, briefed about the day, and then taken off for their first session of the day.

Year 7 students will be in full school uniform, and need to bring; their own equipment (pens, pencils, ruler etc.), PE Kit, a drink, snacks, a packed lunch (please note that no food will be available in school until after the October half term), a face mask/covering, their copy of The Road to Apple Dumpling Bridge, and a big smile!

Parents are welcome to drop off their children, as I am sure it is a very exciting day for them as well, but will need to leave immediately. Thank you in advance of your co-operation.

During the day Year 7 students will have the opportunity to meet the author of 'The Road to Apple Dumpling Bridge' – K L Knowles (the author) who will be signing books and answering questions during the Learning Resources sessions.

Year 7 will be working in their Tutor groups, touring the school, reviewing their timetables and setting up key communication accounts such as email and ClassCharts. The day will finish at 3:10pm with an orderly dismissal from the front of the school.

Years 8 / 9 / 10 / 11 will begin term on Monday 7th September 2020.

All Year Groups will have an on-line 'Teams' briefing on **Friday 4th September** regarding the arrangements for the start of term. Students have been asked to check their emails in anticipation of a Teams meeting invitation from Mrs Tonks on behalf of their Head of Year.

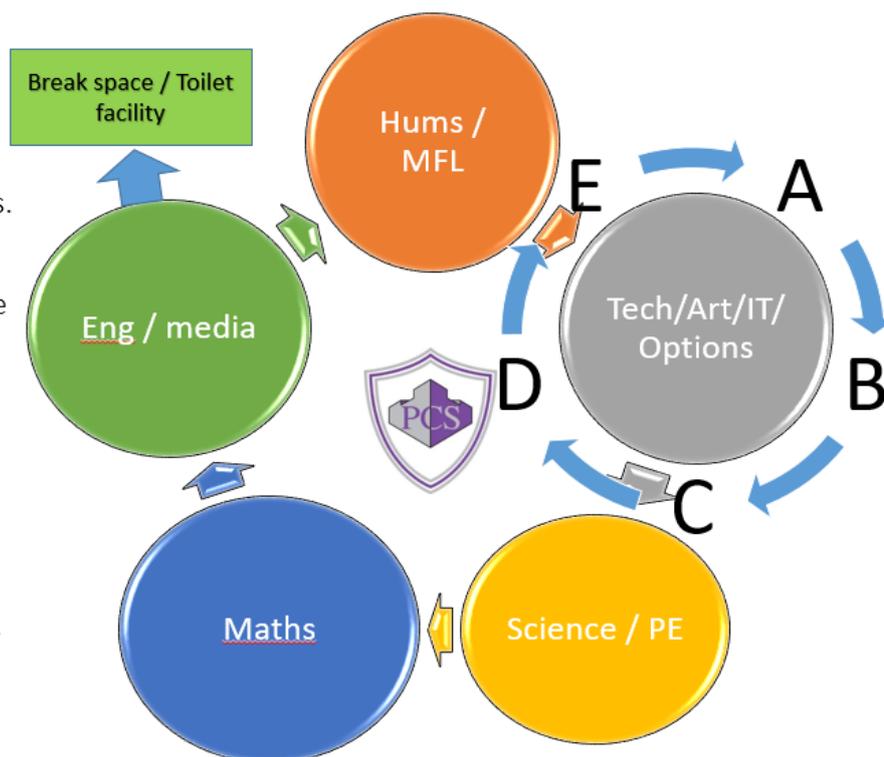
Detailed below is a summary of the '5 Learning Bubbles' plan that the Heads of Year will detail during their Teams meetings with students.

Each cohort (Year Group) will be working in a 'Learning Bubble'. In order to secure a balanced curriculum while providing a safer environment through 'social distancing', limited interaction, and enacting protective measures each 'Learning Bubble' will be working in a separate curriculum area each day of the week.

Each 'Learning Bubble' will rotate around the five key curriculum areas, changing each day. Each 'Learning Area' will have a designated school entrance that the students will use and a designated break space. On entry to the school each day a member of the Leadership team and Pastoral team will complete a temperature check and direct students to their designated Learning Area for the day.

Summary.

- 5 Days of the School Week
- 5 Year Group Learning Bubbles. Years 7-11
- 5 Learning Areas with separate School Entrances and Break / Lunch spaces
- Each Year Group Learning Bubble will be allocated a different Learning Area for each day of the week
- Lessons within the Learning Area will rotate during the day



Summary: Learning Bubbles – Learning Areas

	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday
Year 7	English	Maths / PE	Maths	Humanities	Science
Year 8	Humanities	English	Humanities / PE	Science	Humanities
Year 9	Science / PE	Humanities <i>Options A / B</i>	English	Technology <i>Options C / D</i>	English
Year 10	Maths	Science	Technology <i>Options A / B</i>	Maths <i>Then English</i>	Technology <i>Options C / D</i>
Year 11	Technology <i>Options K / M</i>	Technology <i>Options L / J</i>	Science	English	Maths

PE Kit: Days when students have been allocated PE on their timetables
In order to reduce risk – students will be expected to wear PE kit to school for those days.



Masks: The Government has recently issued further guidance on face masks in school.

All students will be required to bring a face mask / face covering to school as part of their essential school equipment. In line with Government guidance, face masks will only become mandatory if the locality, including Portchester, has been highlighted by Public Health England as a 'high risk' area and is subject to formal 'stricter coronavirus restrictions'. However, any student or member of staff that wishes to wear a face mask is welcome to do so. The school will be respectful of individual's wishes to wear masks.

Supported work in class may require individuals to wear masks if working in close proximity but the general rule is that masks do not need to be worn in lessons. Students will be working in Cohort Bubbles, for the vast majority of the time they will be operating in isolation, however students and staff will be required to wear masks if it becomes necessary to move around the school using the corridors only when the weather prevents travel outside of the school buildings.

Lunch arrangements: Until October half term all students will need to bring a packed lunch, snacks and drinks from home. There will be no catering facilities here at school. Lunches will be eaten in the period 4 classrooms during the lunch period. Those students entitled to 'free school meals' will be offered a voucher arrangement similar to the one that operated during the lockdown period. Relevant students will receive key information soon.

Uniform: All students are expected to be in full school uniform with the appropriate PE kit and classroom equipment.

Attendance: The Department for Education has made it very clear that we are to expect all students to return to full-time education in September. I am aware that individuals may have concerns or specific issues about their return to school. It is important that we are aware of any concerns or issues that individuals may have. The first points of contact for parents should be your child's Head of Year, Pastoral Assistant or our SENCo.

There has been much publicity about the return of fines for non-attendance at school. This has always been a 'last resort', we would rather have a positive ongoing dialogue to support families and their children.

Risk Assessment: The Leadership Team have made every effort to keep up to date with the ever changing requirements from the Department for Education. I will upload the most recent School Risk Assessment to the school website for sharing. It will be updated / replaced as required pending new information.

Ready for the start of term?

I hope that this has given you enough information to support your child's readiness for school. More details will be delivered by the Heads of Year in the on-line 'Teams' meetings on **Friday 4th September**. For those who cannot make the Teams meetings I will place summary information on the school website.

We are all looking forward to a really positive start to term. If you have any questions or concerns please do not hesitate in contacting key staff here at the school.

I hope you enjoy the last few days of your summer break.

Yours sincerely,

Mr Richard Carlyle

Headteacher.

Portchester Community School