

# WESTCLIFF HIGH SCHOOL FOR GIRLS

An Academy Grammar School  
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10<sup>th</sup> July 2020

Dear Parents and Carers,

I hope you all continue to be as well as possible.

Final Week of Term, Monday 13<sup>th</sup> July – Friday 17<sup>th</sup> July 2020

Details of the sessions being held this week have been sent out to parents of Year 10 and Year 12 pupils.

All pupils attending must sign in at Main Reception.

For all other pupils, work continues as normal.

Addressing Staff

During the period away from school there will have been a lot of communication between staff and parents, and I appreciate this can lead to a degree of familiarity. May I ask that we all try to maintain the appropriate level of formality and we do not address staff by first names.

Delay to Next Summer's External Examinations

Ofqual are currently consulting on delaying the start of next summer's GCSE and A-Level examinations.

This means the examination period could be during June and July.

Please note that there could be a further delay should we have another national lockdown period.

As a result, we are recommending that no family with a current Year 10 or Year 12 pupil should book any holidays next summer before August, and preferably delay any bookings until the final dates for the examination period have been decided.

Arrangements for September 2020

We are reviewing the structure of the school day to meet the Guidance issued for schools in September ensuring we undertake things we 'must do' as well as implementing many of the 'could do' suggestions.

We have planned a 'normal timetable' for all pupils in the expectation that everyone will be in school. If not implemented immediately, we hope this will be possible as the academic year progresses. Our initial plans focus on the staggering of pupil movement around the site to minimize staff-pupil contact and mixing.

We may also need to start the year by bringing groups of pupils in at different times, knowing that there will need to be clear explanations of how the process will work and actions we are taking to minimize the risk of transmission of Covid-19.

A lot may still change between now and September, so rather than issue plans now which may need to be revised, I shall be writing to all parents in late August with our proposals.



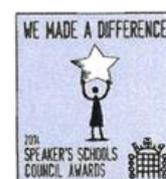
Science



Engineering



Southend-on-Sea



**Below are some extracts from the Guidance for September. These advise on the use of face coverings, the response to infection, school transport, attendance and shielding/self-isolating.**

Public Health England does not (based on current evidence) recommend the use of face coverings in schools.

It is still recommended that pupils limit the amount of equipment they bring into school each day, to essentials such as lunch boxes, hats, coats, books, stationery and mobile phones. Bags are allowed. Pupils and teachers can take books and other shared resources home, although unnecessary sharing should be avoided, especially where this does not contribute to pupil education and development.

### **Response to any infection: Engage with the NHS Test and Trace process**

Schools must ensure that staff members and parents/carers understand that they will need to be ready and willing to:

- [book a test](#) if they are displaying symptoms. Staff and pupils must not come into the school if they have symptoms, and must be sent home to self-isolate if they develop them in school.
- provide details of anyone they have been in close contact with if they were to test positive for coronavirus (COVID-19) or if asked by NHS Test & Trace
- [self-isolate](#) if they have been in close contact with someone who develops coronavirus (COVID-19) symptoms or someone who tests positive for coronavirus (COVID-19)

Schools should ask parents and staff to inform them immediately of the results of a test:

- if someone tests negative, if they feel well and no longer have symptoms similar to coronavirus (COVID-19), they can stop self-isolating. They could still have another virus, such as a cold or flu – in which case it is still best to avoid contact with other people until they are better. Other members of their household can stop self-isolating.
- if someone tests positive, they should follow the '[stay at home: guidance for households with possible or confirmed coronavirus \(COVID-19\) infection](#)' and must continue to self-isolate for at least 7 days from the onset of their symptoms and then return to school only if they do not have symptoms other than cough or loss of sense of smell/taste. This is because a cough or anosmia can last for several weeks once the infection has gone. The 7-day period starts from the day when they first became ill. If they still have a high temperature, they should keep self-isolating until their temperature returns to normal. Other members of their household should continue self-isolating for the full 14 days.

If someone in a class or group that has been asked to self-isolate develops symptoms themselves within their 14-day isolation period they should follow '[stay at home: guidance for households with possible or confirmed coronavirus \(COVID-19\) infection](#)'. They should get a test, and:

- if the test delivers a negative result, they must remain in isolation for the remainder of the 14-day isolation period. This is because they could still develop the coronavirus (COVID-19) within the remaining days.
- if the test result is positive, they should inform their setting immediately, and must isolate for at least 7 days from the onset of their symptoms (which could mean the self-isolation ends before or after the original 14-day isolation period). Their household should self-iso-

late for at least 14 days from when the symptomatic person first had symptoms, following [‘stay at home: guidance for households with possible or confirmed coronavirus \(COVID-19\) infection’](#)

### **Dedicated school transport, including statutory provision**

Pupils on dedicated school services do not mix with the general public on those journeys and tend to be consistent. This means that the advice for passengers on public transport to adopt a social distance of two metres from people outside their household or support bubble, or a ‘one metre plus’ approach where this is not possible, will not apply from the autumn term on dedicated transport.

The approach to dedicated transport should align as far as possible with the principles underpinning the system of controls set out in this document and with the approach being adopted for your school. It is important to consider:

- how pupils are grouped together on transport, where possible this should reflect the bubbles that are adopted within school
- use of hand sanitiser upon boarding and/or disembarking
- additional cleaning of vehicles
- organised queuing and boarding where possible
- distancing within vehicles wherever possible
- the use of face coverings for children over the age of 11, where appropriate, for example, if they are likely to come into very close contact with people outside of their group or who they do not normally meet

### **Attendance expectations**

School attendance will (*sic*) be mandatory again from the beginning of the autumn term. This means from that point, the usual rules on school attendance will apply, including:

- parents’ duty to secure that their child attends regularly at school where the child is a registered pupil at school and they are of compulsory school age;
- schools’ responsibilities to record attendance and follow up absence
- the availability to issue sanctions, including fixed penalty notices in line with local authorities’ codes of conduct

### **Pupils who are shielding or self-isolating**

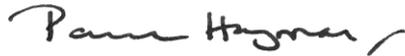
- a small number of pupils will still be unable to attend in line with public health advice because they are self-isolating and have had symptoms or a positive test result themselves; or because they are a close contact of someone who has coronavirus (COVID-19)
- shielding advice for all adults and children will pause on 1 August, subject to a continued decline in the rates of community transmission of coronavirus (COVID-19). This means that even the small number of pupils who will remain on the shielded patient list can also return to school, as can those who have family members who are shielding. Read the [current advice on shielding](#)
- if rates of the disease rise in local areas, children (or family members) from that area, and that area only, will be advised to shield during the period where rates remain high and therefore they may be temporarily absent (see below).
- some pupils no longer required to shield but who generally remain under the care of a specialist health professional may need to discuss their care with their health professional before returning to school in September (usually at their next planned clinical appointment). You can find more advice from the Royal College of Paediatrics and Child Health.

### Wellbeing Calendars

The School Educational Psychologists have provided some wellbeing calendars for the summer holiday. The calendars are designed to help students get ready to return to school/ start secondary school in September and there are staff and parent wellbeing versions included as well in case they may be beneficial.

These Calendars have been added to our Wellbeing page on the school website. The Wellbeing page, can be found under 'Curriculum'.

With best wishes.

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Paul Hayman" with a stylized flourish at the end.

Dr Paul Hayman  
**Headteacher**