



WESTCLIFF HIGH SCHOOL FOR GIRLS

An Academy Grammar School
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22nd May 2020

Dear Parents and Carers,

I hope you continue to remain safe and well.



Next week is half-term. No work will be set.

The challenge of working in these new conditions has been felt by pupils and staff, so I hope half term will be an opportunity for pupils and staff to re-charge their batteries.



Science

Are we opening on June 1?

There will be an update next Friday.

I am still waiting for detailed secondary guidance to be issued.

We also need to know the latest advice from the government and whether they have met their 5 tests.

Based on this I will confirm, postpone or cancel the arrangements detailed later in this letter.



Engineering



Duke of Edinburgh Award

Unfortunately, due to the COVID-19 pandemic we have had to postpone all Duke of Edinburgh expeditions for this academic year. When we are able to, we will look at re-scheduling these expeditions so that the students can achieve the full award. We will obviously only do this when it is safe for us to do so for staff and students.



Southend-on-Sea

The DofE organisation has recognised the barriers faced with delivering expeditions and have introduced a new initiative for this year only to make sure that we recognise all the hard work that has and still is taking place to achieve the award.



The **2020 DofE Certificate of Achievement** is a formal recognition, by the DofE, of the pupils dedication, resilience and accomplishments in these extraordinary circumstances. Any participant at any level can achieve this award if they complete all of the other three sections on EdofE; physical, skills and volunteering.

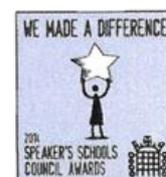


Whilst the students are at home, they can still be continuing to complete these sections, if this is possible. It may be that they have to change the original activity they chose or adapt it in some way to achieve this.



More information can be found on the DofE website below, or you can contact Miss D Meades, DofE manager.

<https://www.dofe.org/dofewithadifference/faqs-certificate>



Cont.



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SOUTH EAST ESSEX ACADEMY TRUST

Library Lockdown Testimonials Project

The Library is launching a new project called 'Thoughts on Lockdown 2020', and is asking all staff and students to take part in producing a book of testimonials, to share their experiences and thoughts on how Covid-19 and lockdown has affected their individual lives.

Once collated, the testimonials will be available to view digitally and will also be bound into a physical volume to keep for posterity as a snapshot of WHSG social history during this life-changing pandemic.

Students may write as much or as little as they want and feel free to include pictures or photos as illustrations.

Students should add their or, if they prefer to remain anonymous, this should be stated at the end.

Items for inclusion should be submitted via Google Classroom: fkwbm4w, or email to st-sue.giles@whsg.info, with the subject 'Thoughts on Lockdown 2020'.

The initial deadline for submissions is October half-term.

Outstanding Work from Pupils

As you will be aware, WHSG teachers have continued to work hard to provide a high standard of education for all our students during these unprecedented times. Our teachers have had to adapt to working with unfamiliar technology and consider a variety of new ways to engage the students in their education to help to minimize the impact that the current lockdown is having on the education of young people.

Whilst the significant majority of students have completed their work and submitted this on time, it has been brought to my attention that some students have some outstanding pieces of work that has been set during the lockdown. The relevant teachers and Learning Managers have contacted them to raise this, however some work is still outstanding.

As you will appreciate, we have to rely on students meeting the set deadlines to enable teachers to manage their workload, and more importantly, assess the progress made by the students to then facilitate them in being able to set the appropriate follow up work. Where work is outstanding, this is now having a detrimental impact on our teachers' workload and will naturally have an adverse effect on a student's PT grades.

On the remaining PTs there will be feedback on engagement with remote learning:

- The H Celebration flag will mean fully engaged in remote learning
- The H Concern flag will mean not fully engaged in remote learning

Moving forward, I have asked teachers stop chasing any current outstanding work up to today. Moving forward, please can I ask that all parents and carers monitor that your daughter/son has completed all work set and that it is submitted on time, therefore helping us to minimize the effect that this lockdown is having on their education.

Your feedback to our recent surveys

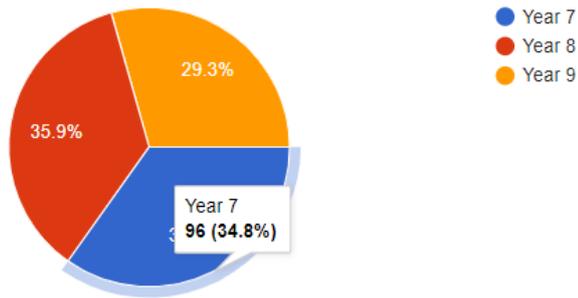
Thank you to every parent who responded to our recent surveys.

Here are the results:

- a) Years 7-9 – 276 responses (as of lunchtime 20th May 2020)

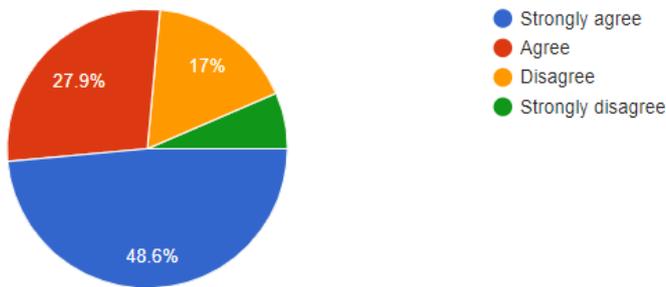
Which year group is your child in?

276 responses



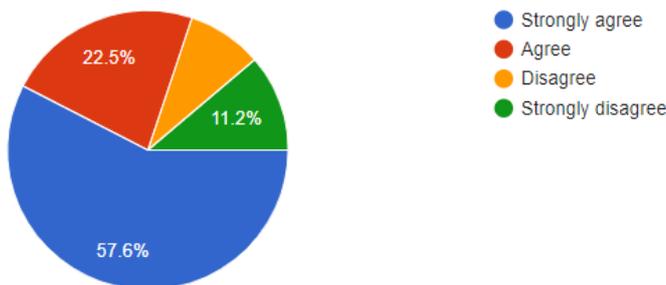
I have concerns about the health risks to my child, IF they were to return to school before September 2020.

276 responses



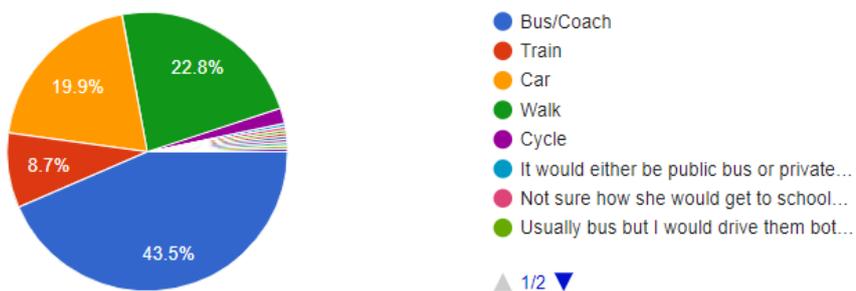
I have concerns about my child using public transport to get to and from school.

276 responses



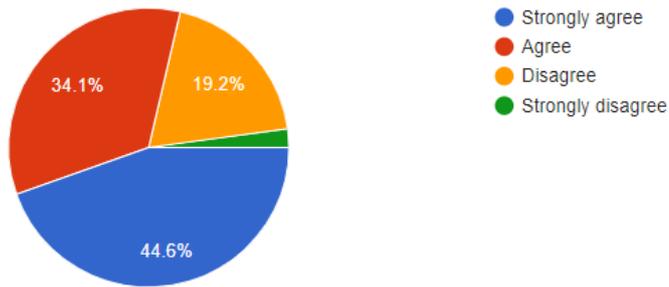
How would your child travel to and from school?

276 responses



I am concerned about my child mixing with people from outside of the family home.

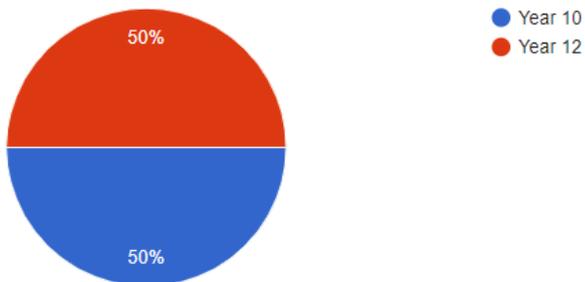
276 responses



b) Years 10 & 12 – 266 responses (as of lunchtime 20th May 2020)

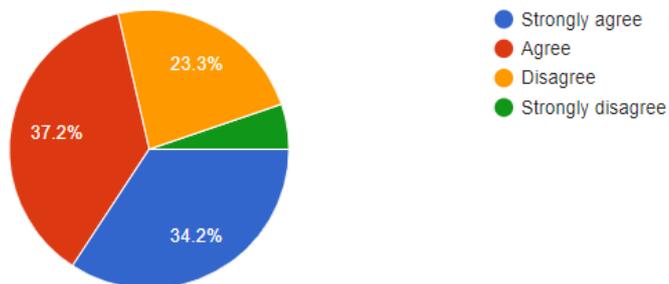
Which year group is your child in?

266 responses



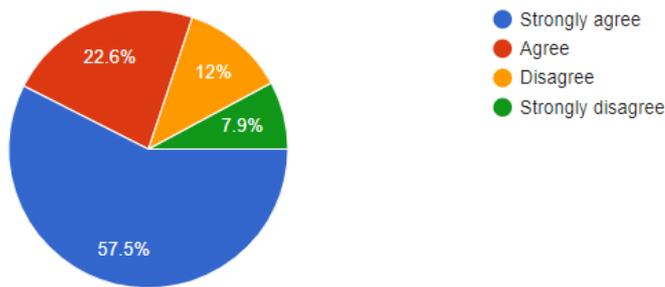
I have concerns about the health risks to my child of them starting back to school before September 2020.

266 responses



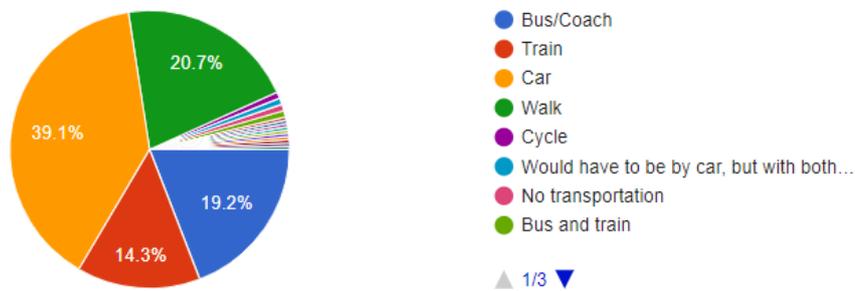
I have concerns about my child using public transport to get to and from school.

266 responses



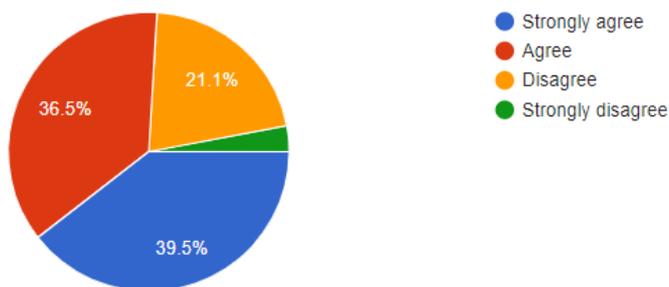
If your child returned to school before September 2020, how would they travel to and from school?

266 responses



I am concerned about my child mixing with people outside of the family home.

266 responses



These charts are self-explanatory.

Both sets of responses clearly suggest reservations about pupils returning to school. Our job is to try to address those reservations and help to overcome these barriers.

In the comments section, key concerns were about transport to school, the need for social distancing and the perceived rush to get back rather than waiting until September. Some parents are concerned at the lack of social interaction and their child's welfare. Some wanted to know about the cleaning of the school.

I would like to thank the good number of parents who used this forum to thank the school for its efforts at this time.

We will soon be sending out a survey for pupils to complete; it will be helpful to gauge their views as well.

Plans for the phased re-opening of the school

We continue to be open for the children of Key Workers and those we have identified as vulnerable.

A cautious yet pragmatic approach to a re-opening.

We have been considering the way in which the school may re-open to a few more pupils, the purpose of being open and how the numbers attending may increase with time, while being as safe as possible.

Even as I write this letter I am still waiting for the final guidance from the DfE about the opening of secondary schools, and then next week we await (with bated breath) the Government's confirmation that its five tests have been met before schools can reopen. This means that (even now) these plans are subject to significant alteration.

Then, we have to allow for the fact that some staff and pupils will be shielding, some will be self-isolating and, for pupils, some cannot access the school due to a lack of effective transport.

Every school also has to have completed a thorough Risk Assessment which will help to determine the provision we can make. Within this we have to plan for social distancing linked to the spaces we have available, enhanced cleaning, welfare support and the face to face offer we can provide.

Keeping Safe

Safeguarding our students and staff is our priority.

Although there is a body of evidence that pupils are less affected by Covid-19, there is no evidence about their ability to spread the disease.

We do not want any staff or pupils to catch this disease as a result of being in school.

The problem of R

The rate of transmission of Covid-19 is not known in the communities we serve. We do have a value for the East of England of 0.71. This is not an exact figure, and we have been told it could be lower or higher. Last weekend saw increased movement with the relaxation of lockdown restrictions. The effect of this will only be seen in the next 7-21 days.

The Purpose of being open

The guidance received from the DfE states:

secondary schools to offer some face to face support to supplement the remote education of Year 10 and Year 12 students

This means that for the foreseeable future all year groups will maintain their remote learning.

Initially, this in school face to face provision will focus on consolidation and revision, but we also will do our best to support pupils with:

- Reconnecting
- Managing the remote learning
- Catch up support

No child unable to attend school should miss out on any work covered, and staff will place materials from their sessions on Google Classroom.

Welfare

On Monday 1st June and Thursday 4th June Mrs Joscelyne and Mrs Cammidge will be in school to offer a session for any student who wishes to access their support.

The sessions will run 9:30 - 9:50 and 12:10 - 12:35 (for those who are in at these times).

They remain in on these days for any child who needs their support and will be based in the Library.

Should your daughter/son need support outside of these times, please let us know and we will do our best to arrange this.

In addition, Miss Arthur has been providing a lot of support remotely, and this will continue.

Should your Year 12 daughter/son be in need of this support, please email Miss Arthur (st-selina.arthur@whsg.info) or Mr Hayton (st-barry-hayton@whsg.info) directly.

Mrs Dell (our SENCo) will also be in school (based in her office) and will be available to support SEN students.

A Phased Approach

In the week commencing June 1st we will be opening the school to a few pupils from Year 12. This attendance is not compulsory.

This will be in addition to the children we already have at school, e.g. those of Key Workers.

The staff that will be in that week will be present on a voluntary basis, and will focus on support with learning techniques, revision skills and well-being activities.

Only as we learn from this and we have updated information about the value and trend in the R number, will we issue details on the provision we may offer for the week commencing June 15th to our Year 10 students.

Travel to School

When pupils come into school, it will be your responsibility to arrange travel and ensure this allows your daughter/son to maintain social distancing. For the rest of this term we do not expect school buses/coaches to operate as they will not be financially viable while ensuring social distancing rules are observed.

Normal timetabled bus services are running at about 45% of their usual frequency, and then at only 20% capacity due to social distancing.

We understand C2C will be operating a full service – but again social distancing requirements mean that the numbers they carry will be limited; we believe they will have enough capacity for the Year 12 and Year 10 pupils we are anticipating.

Pupils will need to wear face coverings while on public transport.

Expectations of students:

- When inside a school building, students to wear a cloth face covering (nose & mouth) (preferably home-made). See <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=zWTxGqX0ksQ>;
- To wash their hands or use hand sanitiser after touching the face covering (eg to drop it down to your neck)
- Used face covering (nose & mouth)s to be retained in a sealed bag and laundered each day;
- No uniform (for the time being);
- Students to wash the smart casual clothes (no jeans) worn to school each day;
- Students to bring their own food to school; the canteen will only provide a service to FSM students;
- Students to bring their own pre-filled water bottles; the school's water fountains will not be available;
- Students to have a supply of tissues; should they need to sneeze etc. they must use the tissue and immediately dispose of it in a bin;
- Students to maintain social distancing at all times;
- Students to follow our one-way system;
- Students to thoroughly wash their hands with soap and water at least once each hour;
- Students to have their own hand sanitizer that has a high alcohol content (60% or above) - this could be used to wipe a toilet seat before use;
- Students not to share materials;
- Students to keep their bags/coats/materials in their own possession at all times;
- Students to manage their travel to and from school in a way that maintains social distancing;
- Students to only access/leave the school site using the Middlesex Avenue gate
- Students to sign in on arrival and out when leaving the site. This will take place in Hylands;
- Students to leave the site and return home once their school based offer is complete for the day.

Timetable of provision for Year 12

We have tried to arrange this timetable to minimise the number of times a pupil needs to travel to school. To access the provision, the vast majority will only need to come in for 2 days, but for a few it is more. It is unlikely that a pupil will be spending this time with their usual teacher

Morning sessions will be:

9.30 - Registration and pre-briefing in Hylands;

10.00 to 12.00 - In class.

Afternoon sessions will be:

12.15 - Registration and pre-briefing in Hylands;

12.45-14.45 - In class

Rooms will be cleaned after each session, but the day gap mid-week is to allow time for a deep clean of the rooms used.

Timetable for Year 12 Face-to-Face Sessions

	am	pm
Monday 1 st June 2020	Economics Art	RS
Wednesday 3 rd June 2020	Further Maths	Physics
Friday 5 th June 2020	Biology Music	Chemistry Music Technology
Monday 8 th June 2020	Business Studies Drama Computing	Geography Graphics
Wednesday 10 th June 2020	Maths	Psychology
Thursday 11 th June	Government & Politics Spanish	Law French Textiles
Friday 12 th June 2020	History	English Language & Literature English Literature

Unlike primary schools, we cannot make this offer work without the movement of pupils between classes. This means that your daughter/son will mix with different students in each subject they attend.

Please discuss this with your daughter/son and be satisfied that they will also ensure they minimise the risk to themselves and to you and your family.

Cleaning

The school will have an enhanced cleaning regime in place.

Rooms will be thoroughly cleaned after each use, toilet cubicles will be frequently cleaned and the school will be deep cleaned on days between sessions.

Cleaners will continue to clean door handles, bannisters and other surfaces that may be touched throughout the day.

Hand washing advice

The latest advice from Public Health England is:

It is essential that everyone washes their hands more often, using soap and water for at least 20 seconds. Hand washing with soap employs mechanical action that loosens bacteria and viruses from the skin, rinsing them into the drain. Drying hands afterwards makes the skin less hospitable to the virus. Hand sanitiser can be effective if soap is not available or the situation makes using soap less feasible (i.e. when outside) but using hand sanitiser provides none of the virus-destroying friction that rubbing your hands together and rinsing with water provides.

This is the link to the latest video:

<https://www.gov.uk/guidance/coronavirus-covid-19-information-for-the-public>

PPE

Teachers may decide for themselves whether or not to wear face coverings.

They may also decide whether or not pupils can remove face coverings during their session with them.

They will only do this having considered the risks involved.

We will review the need for face coverings each week, based on the experience of other educational settings and in line with the trend in the local R factor. We are not expecting any other PPE to be worn, except when dealing with pupils needing medical assistance.

What are the symptoms that mean I must not attend school and self-isolate?

- a new continuous cough
- a high temperature
- a loss of, or change in, your normal sense of taste or smell (anosmia)

Full details can be found at:

<https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/covid-19-stay-at-home-guidance/stay-at-home-guidance-for-households-with-possible-coronavirus-covid-19-infection>

If a child arrives at school and displays any of these symptoms, then they will be isolated and parents will be called to collect them immediately.

Who should not be in school?

The guidance received says:

- children, young people and staff who have been classed as [clinically extremely vulnerable due to pre-existing medical conditions](#) have been advised to shield. We do not expect people in this category to be attending school or college, and they should continue to be supported to learn or work at home as much as possible. Clinically vulnerable (but not clinically extremely vulnerable) people are those considered to be at a higher risk of severe illness from coronavirus. Few if any children will fall into this category, but parents should follow medical advice if their child is in this category. Staff in this category should work from home where possible, and refer to the detail in our protective measures guidance
- a child/young person or a member of staff who lives with someone who is clinically vulnerable (but not clinically extremely vulnerable), including those who are pregnant, can attend their education or childcare setting
- if a child/young person or staff member lives in a household with someone who is extremely clinically vulnerable, as set out in the [guidance on shielding](#), it is advised they only attend an education or childcare setting if stringent social distancing can be adhered to and, in the case of children, if they are able to understand and follow those instructions. This may not be possible for very young children and older children without the capacity to adhere to the instructions on social distancing. If stringent social distancing cannot be adhered to, we do not expect those individuals to attend. They should be supported to learn or work at home
- staff and children or young people should not attend if they have symptoms or are self-isolating due to symptoms in their household

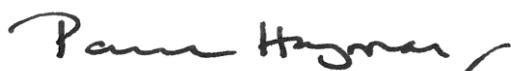
Registering for your daughter or son is come in for these sessions

We look forward to welcoming back small groups of Year 12 pupils from June 1st.

If your daughter or son will be attending a session (or a day) you MUST email st-amy.hooks@whsg.info with their name and the session(s) (date, am/pm) they will be attending.

This email must be received at least 2 working days in advance of them attending school.

With very best wishes,



Dr Paul Hayman
Headteacher