

22/05/2020

Dear Parents/Carers

As we approach the end of the first half term of the summer, we would like to update you on several areas. Initially, thank you for your support during the recent weeks. This has been a challenging time for all of us and the ever-changing situation has made planning and decision making difficult.

Two staff are officially leaving us, at the end of the week. Mrs Sims, who returned part-time to support the MFL Department and Miss Siseman, from the English Department. Both have made a huge contribution to school life and we wish them good luck for the future.

My apologies for the length of this letter but we want to update you with as much information as possible.

There have been many reports in the media concern when schools will or won't open and what the nature of any school provision may be. At the time of writing this letter we are still waiting for more detailed guidance from the Government on specific expectations for secondary schools. If the guidelines follow the primary school expectations, the key factor will be the risk assessment we have completed to ensure the safety and welfare for the students and the staff.

Congratulations to all those students who have successfully completed the Ramsey Achievement Award. They have been informed of their achievement and will be presented with the badges when we return to school.

After half term we will be changing the nature of the curriculum delivery, as I mentioned in a previous letter. There will be different expectations for each year group and detailed information is available on the website. The final details are included in a designated area named 'Remote Learning'. <https://www.ramseyacademy.com/remote-learning/>

### **Year 10 students**

We will introduce a modified weekly timetable with shorter lessons to be delivered in a variety of ways. The aim of this structure is to establish working patterns for the students which will make the transition back into 'normal' school routine easier.

This will be done remotely via pre-recorded lessons with set tasks and the capacity for students to 'chat' to staff via email.

This will be an ideal opportunity, not only to learn new skills but prepare the students for working in a new way, that will undoubtedly become much more common in the future, not only in school but the workplace.

Staff will use Microsoft Teams for the delivery of lessons. The website will contain information and instruction videos for students, explaining how to use Microsoft Teams.

Initially no homework/home learning will be set, but this will be reviewed after a few weeks when teachers and students have become more familiar with the style of learning.

The timetable (available on the website) will be based on 40-minute lessons and cover all subjects but on a reduced time allocation.

Maths, English & Science	3 x 40 minutes	Personal Development & Careers	1 x 40 minutes
Option subjects	2 x 40 minutes	Physical Education	1 x 40 minutes
		Year group assembly	1 x 15 minutes

Not all students will be able to access the lessons at the specific time. Therefore, the lessons and resources will be made available on Show My Homework. For those students unable to access online, they may be able to attend school to use the computers onsite under the supervision of staff.

### Year 9 students

The work will be set on a weekly basis and be distributed to students on Monday mornings via Show My Homework.

Initially lessons will not be delivered by online learning, as in Year 10. However, we will review the situation after two weeks and possibly extend this type of learning to Year 9 students.

The timetable will be based on an expected time allocation for work to be completed and cover all subjects but on a reduced time allocation.

Maths, English & Science	2 hours per week per subject	Personal Development & Careers	1 hour
Option subjects	2 hours per week per subject	Physical Education	1 hour
		Year group assembly	1 x 15 minutes

Students will only be expected to do work for the subjects they have chosen to follow in Year 10, with the exception of new subjects, including Health & Social Care, Construction and Dance. Students will be expected to submit work by the end of the week.

To support them in structuring their learning and planning the use of time, a suggested timetable will be issued.

### Year 7 & 8

The guidelines for setting work and completion of work are the same as Year 9.

The timetable will be based on an expected time allocation for work to be completed and cover all subjects but on a reduced time allocation.

Maths, English & Science	2 hours per week per subject	RE/PSHE	1 hour per week
Geography, History, MFL, Art & Technology	1 hour per week per subject	Physical Education	1 hour per week
Music & Drama	1 hour every 2 weeks	Year group assembly	1 x 15 minutes

### Student supervision in school

After half term we anticipate that Richard de Clare Community Academy will open for more students. As a result, the supervision of students will be at Ramsey Academy.

Supervision will continue for the children of key workers and other students as agreed by the school.

We appreciate not all students have access to IT facilities at home. As the curriculum delivery is changing for Year 10 students, if you feel your child would benefit from using a computer in school to complete the lessons, please send an email or contact the Main Office. A member of staff will return your call as soon as possible.

### **Face masks**

We anticipate you may consider your child attending school and requesting to wear a face mask. Government guidance states that masks and face coverings are not recommended in schools. There is currently no convincing evidence that they protect the wearer and if used incorrectly they can put children and others at risk of infection. The school is therefore discouraging the wearing of masks and face coverings by pupils and staff. The school recommends that you read the government advice which can be found here:

<https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/coronavirus-covid-19-implementing-protective-measures-in-education-and-childcare-settings/coronavirus-covid-19-implementing-protective-measures-in-education-and-childcare-settings#personal-protective-equipment-ppe-including-face-coverings-and-face-masks>

If you and your child decide that they wish to wear a face covering, please sign and return the consent form below either via email or when your child attends school for the first time, confirming that you have discussed the following guidance for the safe use and disposal of face coverings with your child and that your child understands this. The school does not accept any liability if your child does not use and dispose of their face covering safely. If your child requests to wear a face mask without your consent form, they will not be permitted to do so.

If wearing a face covering children and adults should:

- wash hands thoroughly with soap and water for 20 seconds or use hand sanitiser before putting a face covering on, and after removing it
- when wearing a face covering, avoid touching the face or face covering, to avoid contamination with germs from hands
- change the face covering if it becomes damp or if it has been touched
- continue to wash hands regularly
- change and wash the face covering daily
- if the material is washable, wash in line with manufacturer's instructions after each use. If it's not washable, dispose of it carefully with domestic waste
- practise social distancing wherever possible

Finally, we once again would like to thank you for your support during recent weeks. After half term we appreciate it may take time for the students and staff to adjust to a new way of working, but we are sure they will rise to the challenge. The staff are also learning new skills to deliver online lessons: we are all learning together!

Best wishes

R James

C Leys

CEO/Executive Headteacher

Head of School

Name

Tutor Group

I consent to my child ..... wearing a face mask in school and confirm that I have discussed the guidance for the safe use and disposal of face coverings with my child and that they understand this guidance. I accept that the school does not accept any liability if my child does not use and dispose of their face covering safely.

Signed/Date

