



# The Arnewood School

11 – 19 Academy

**Working Together - Shaping Tomorrow**

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2<sup>nd</sup> June 2020

Dear Parent / Carer / Student

## **Re: Face-to-Face Supplementary Teaching for Year 10 and Year 12 / Continued Home Learning Year 7, Year 8, Year 9 and Year 11.**

On Thursday during half-term, the Prime Minister confirmed his intention that from 15<sup>th</sup> June the government is expecting secondary schools to offer face-to-face support to supplement online education for students taking examinations in 2020-2021.

At The Arnewood School this means that we shall now be able to supplement home learning in school both for Year 10 and Year 12. Most other students in Years 7, 8, 9, and 11 will remain at home and continue their education remotely. I shall therefore deploy staff proportionally to meet the demands of educating what is essentially four different cohorts – those in Year 10, those in Year 12, students already educated in school (children of critical workers etc.), and those learning remotely from home. Clearly this last cohort is the greatest and will continue to receive the largest share of any divided resource.

Staff have been working on plans to put this into action over the last month. These plans have been devised in discussion with all head teachers and principals from New Forest secondary schools and colleges. Although there are some differences in the details of each school's or college's plans, due to the individual restrictions of each school community's setting, all have been made with the core purpose that we will do all that we can to support our students, without ever compromising their safety.

For those returning to school, we believe we are able to operate safely, within the guidance offered by The Department for Education (DfE) and Public Health England (PHE), **provided** we limit numbers on the school site in order to mitigate any associated risks. To achieve this need we shall as far as practical keep separate groups of students and staff, as advised in government guidance, in order to limit any spread of viral infection. Among the very many issues we have considered are the availability of non-shielding staff, the need to maintain strict social distancing, methods to ensure frequent hand hygiene and increase the frequency of surface cleaning.

So that you have from the outset a realistic expectation of what the school can provide, I need to be clear that this will not be, for the time being, school as we knew it in March before closure. For Year 10 we shall be able to provide students with one morning a week in school covering English and mathematics taught by subject specialists, in groups of no more than nine students. For Year 12 we shall be able to provide students 1½ hours of study in each of the subjects they are studying at A level taught by a subject specialist in almost all instances. These groups will be no larger than 12 students.

Please forgive me providing a stark list of rules but I am sure you understand clarity is important in this situation. It will be essential that the following important rules are fully observed to keep everyone healthy and safe.

Students: -

- with COVID-19 symptoms <sup>+</sup> may not attend school and must remain isolated at home in accordance with NHS guidelines <sup>+</sup>
- who have come into contact with a person showing COVID-19 symptoms must remain isolated at home in accordance with NHS guidelines <sup>+</sup>
- must remain **2 metres** apart from any other person including, while in school, those from the same household
- must remain in the group to which they are allocated at **all** times while in school
- may only attend school at the specific times given to their designated group
- must observe the staggered breaks and lunchtime allocated to their group
- may only use the toilet allocated to their designated group
- must occupy the same allocated seat in their designated classroom
- must bring their own hand sanitiser to school for their personal use only
- must bring their own school equipment as none can be loaned
- when arriving at school, must go directly to their group's designated room
- when leaving school, must observe rules on social distancing and not congregate with others
- must bring their own water to drink and any other refreshments required as the canteen will not be able to serve snacks or meals
- must wear school uniform which is regularly washed

<sup>+</sup> <https://www.nhs.uk/conditions/coronavirus-covid-19/what-to-do-if-you-or-someone-you-live-with-has-coronavirus-symptoms/>

**For students returning to school, you will receive a separate notification from either Mr Emecz (Head of Year 10) or Mr Colman (Head of Sixth Form) indicating your son/daughter's designated group and the timetable they must follow.**

As you will appreciate, this exercise is extremely complex but designed to maximise the number of students being able to attend school while adequately meeting the needs of the larger number receiving home education. I shall look to increase contact time for Year 10 as it becomes safe to do so and once systems are embedded and it is clear we can maintain adequate lessons on Firefly for everyone.

The frequently asked questions (FAQ) sheet accompanying this letter will set out further details. Should you have any questions please do not hesitate to email the school at [enquiries@arnewood.hants.sch.uk](mailto:enquiries@arnewood.hants.sch.uk). As we are operating a skeleton staff in school, please allow additional time for a reply.

I am very grateful to parents/carers for the effort so many of you are making to support students with their studies at home. Working together I am confident we can continue to do the best we are able until the pandemic is fully passed. We are all acutely aware of the impact of prolonged absence from school and work. In making these plans we have carefully considered the views expressed in the community engagement survey and therefore intend to act with painstaking caution in the next few weeks.

Your sincerely

*N. M. Pressnell*

Nigel Pressnell  
**Headteacher**

## **FAQs**

### **What happens if a student or teacher in my child's group becomes ill with COVID-19?**

Should your child come into contact with another student or adult showing symptoms of COVID-19 they and their designated group will be informed and they must isolate in accordance with PHE guidelines <sup>+</sup>.

All staff and students who are attending an education or childcare setting will have access to a test if they display symptoms of coronavirus, and are required to get tested in this scenario. Where the child tests negative, they can return to school and the fellow household members can end their self-isolation.

You must inform the school if you or your child are going to have a test. You must also inform the school of the results before being given permission to return to school. Speak either with Mr Emecz (Head of Year 10), Mr Colman (Head of Sixth Form) or Mr Pressnell (Headteacher). Please telephone 01425 625400 or email [enquiries@arnewood.hants.sch.uk](mailto:enquiries@arnewood.hants.sch.uk) marking your email FAO of Mr Emecz, Mr Colman or Mr Pressnell.

### **What happens if a student or teacher in school but not in my child's group becomes ill with COVID-19?**

Providing they have not been in contact with the person showing symptoms and they are not in the same group as them, they may continue to attend school. This is one of the reasons why we are separating the cohorts of students. We may ask individuals to self-isolate at home as a precautionary measure.

We have a planned process in place for any individual who is taken ill during the course of the day which includes their immediate care and isolation.

### **What if my child or a member of the family or household is showing COVID-19 symptoms?**

Please carefully read the guidance provided the NHS <sup>+</sup>.

<sup>+</sup> <https://www.nhs.uk/conditions/coronavirus-covid-19/what-to-do-if-you-or-someone-you-live-with-has-coronavirus-symptoms/>

### **How will my son/daughter get to school if travelling on public transport?**

Where possible we advise students to walk or cycle alone to school. If travelling by car, under no circumstances may people park or wait on the drive. The cycle shed will be supervised and social distancing enforced.

The school coach will not be running and students' using public services will need to observe social distancing. The school is not able to supervise students on the way to and from school.

### **What happens if my son/daughter cannot attend school or I do not wish to send them to school?**

Students who are not able to attend school will still have online lessons on Firefly that they can follow. We are actively looking at how we can supplement Firefly with video conferencing starting with older students.

Parents/carers who do not send their son/daughter to school will not be issued with penalty notices or fined at this time although we encourage attendance as education is important.

### **Do students wear school uniform?**

Students are expected to wear their normal uniform. We recognise some students may have outgrown particular items so if they have a note from their parent/carer we will accept them wearing a similar sensible alternative. It is important uniform is washed regularly. For the remainder of the academic year, the school blazer need not be worn.

### **How will you ensure social distancing?**

Students and staff will be expected to observe appropriate social distancing in school at all times. One-way systems have been created round the school and class sizes will be a maximum of 9 in Year 10. In Year 12 class sizes will generally be fewer than 9 but in a few instances up to 12 where they will be placed in much larger rooms. Students will be in the same class for all lessons. Students will be in school for a maximum of 2 hours to begin with, so breaktimes and lunchtimes will not be necessary.

### **What happens at lunchtime?**

Please ensure everyone has a good breakfast as the canteen will be unable to offer a normal service owing to the limited space and higher risk of spreading the virus. Lessons will start or finish in time for students to eat at home. We are still providing some catering exclusively for students attending our all-day critical worker/ eligible students' school.

### **How will student use the toilets?**

We will operate a system where no more than 2 students will be in a toilet block at any time. Hand gel stations will be situated outside the toilet and also by the sinks and students will be reminded about maintaining good hygiene. Toilets will be allocated to groups of classrooms to avoid unnecessary movement and aid supervision and cleaning.

### **Will PPE be mandatory for staff and/or children?**

The COVID 19: Implementing Protective Measures in Education and Childcare Settings document states that: -

Wearing a face covering or face mask in schools or other education settings is not recommended. The majority of staff in education settings will not require PPE beyond what they would normally need for their work, even if they are not always able to maintain a distance of 2 metres from others. PPE is only needed in a very small number of cases.

We are very happy to see students and staff in school wearing PPE if they wish. We have been grateful to receive a donation of new face shields which students are welcome to use if they do not have their own.

### **What will happen if a student fails to follow social distancing rules?**

We cannot allow students who are unable to follow the rules to risk the health of others. They will be required to work from home using the online learning resources provided for others. Although not anticipated, deliberate defiance will be sanctioned in accordance with the school's behaviour policy.

## What happens if a student refuses or repeatedly forgets to keep 2 metres social distance?

It is essential student and staff maintain social distancing. We ask parents/carers to ensure their son/daughter fully appreciates the associated health concern. While we understand that it takes a little time to get used to a new system, we cannot afford to take any risks. **Any student who is unable to keep 2 metres distance or who chooses to disregard social distancing may be sent home immediately.** Online learning is already in place for those studying from home.

## Will students be able to sanitise their hands frequently?

Sixth form students will be taught in rooms with sinks and soap. Each group will be allocated a toilet but access will be restricted to maintain social distancing. Please bring your own hand gel for personal use. Sanitising equipment will be allocated to each teacher for their group.

## Why am I not being taught in my normal room?

We are seeking to limit movement between and within rooms. At the end of each day, the classrooms used will be deep cleaned. This means we have to redirect cleaners from unused locations in the school so that they can concentrate their efforts where essential for safety.

## What health care message is being given to students about stopping the spread of Covid-19?

Please make sure you are familiar with this strategy from Public Health England.

**How can you stop coronaviruses spreading?**

If you need to cough or sneeze			You should wash hands with soap & water or hand sanitiser				
							
Catch it with a tissue	Bin it	Kill it by washing your hands with soap & water or hand sanitiser	After breaks & sport activities	Before cooking & eating	On arrival at any childcare or educational setting	After using the toilet	Before leaving home
 Try not to touch your eyes, nose, and mouth with unwashed hands	 Do not share items that come into contact with your mouth such as cups & bottles	 If unwell do not share items such as bedding, dishes, pencils & towels					