



I hope that you and your families are well and have enjoyed some down time over recent weeks. I wrote to in July with regards to the Government's announcement that, 'all pupils in all year groups, are required to return to school full-time from the beginning of the autumn term'. Within this newsletter, you will find the final arrangements for the start of the academic year.

Undoubtedly, there may be some anxieties regarding the return to school. Likewise, I know that many of our students are excited to return to Winterhill, and we are eager to welcome them back. However, as we move towards September, please be assured that our students, and the wider community, are at the centre of all the decisions we have made, and we will continue to work hard to ensure all students have full access to the education they deserve.

We are very much looking forward to welcoming all our students back to school, and although things will be different, our ethos remains the same, 'everyone succeeds' when we uphold and follow the values of 'The Winterhill Way'.
S. Rhodes - Headteacher

DESIGNATED RETURN DAY INFORMATION

In order to minimise opportunities for mixing, as per government guidance, students will have their own entrance and exit points within their year group 'bubbles', which will be visibly signposted. For their first return day, students will also have a staggered start time. Please see details of this below:

Year Group	Designated School Entrance	Return Day Start Time
Year 8	School gates at the bottom of Little Common Lane	9:45am, Monday 7th Sept*
Year 9	Student Reception	9:15am, Monday 7th Sept*
Year 10	School gates on High Street (across from the zebra crossing)	8:45am, Monday 7th Sept*
Year 11	Student Reception	8:45am, Friday 4th Sept

*After their first day of return, **all students are to continue to use the same entrance every day**, they will also leave by the same points at the end of the school day. However, **they must arrive at the new start time of 8:45am**.

MOVEMENT AROUND SCHOOL

A number of measures have been put in place to ensure that movement is kept to a minimum including:

1. In certain areas of the school, a **clearly signposted one-way system is in place**, for example, on stairwells to minimise contact.
2. A **stay 'left system'** is also in place to allow students to move through the school quickly when on corridors.
3. Students have designated entry and exit points at the start and end of the school day.

BREAK AND LUNCHTIMES ARRANGEMENTS

All students will have a **designated break and lunch slot** during the school day.

Students will be given a designated area which they **must** remain in during their break and lunch time.

Students are welcome to bring their own food, or alternatively purchase their lunch in school. As we are a cashless school, lunch money must be added to your child's Parent Pay account online. [<https://www.parentpay.com/>] If this is not an option, students can load their cards using the money machines available.

SCHOOL UNIFORM

All students are expected to wear **full school uniform**.

Black shoes must be worn. Training shoes are not acceptable.

Students should also bring their own equipment to minimise sharing. Further information can be found on the school website regarding school uniform expectations. [<https://www.winterhill.org.uk/uniform>]

TRANSPORT TO / FROM SCHOOL

Government guidance states that students should **walk to school, where possible**. However, if your child is arriving by public transport, they should conform to the Government guidelines of wearing a face covering.

If you are dropping your child off at school, please ensure drop off time is kept to a minimum. **Students will not be allowed into the building before 8:40am**, so please ensure that students are not arriving too early.

When students arrive at school, they must go straight to their designated entrance, where a member of staff will direct them to their allocated group tutor room.

First Day: New Timetable and Tutor Groups

As of September, all tutor groups have been restructured with smaller group sizes.

Students will be informed of their new group tutor and base on the first day of their return.

Students will receive their new timetables on the first morning they arrive to school. They will need to keep this safe. Many students find it useful to take a picture of it on their phone.

Students will be following the new four period day, which will be explained to them in detail via their group tutor on the first day. The structure of the day is made up of four 75 minutes lessons, as well as a daily time with their group tutor. The school day starts at 8:45am and finishes at 3:00pm.

Students will continue to study the **full range of subjects**.

HYGIENE AND DISTANCING MEASURES

Hygiene and distancing guidance has been placed around school via signs and on the main TV screens, as well as in every classroom. Students are expected to follow this hygiene guidance throughout the day.

Hand sanitiser will be at all student entry points, and all students must sanitise their hands on entry in to the school building. They will also be located in dining areas and other key areas around school.

All classrooms have been provided with sanitiser, wipes and tissues etc. to ensure high hygiene standards, and students are expected to follow the catch it, bin it, kill it guidance.

All student will be encouraged to maintain appropriate distancing on entry and exit from the school building as well as throughout the school day.

As we are unable to use the water fountains at present, students will need to bring adequate water from home.

If you would like to contact me, please email **Julie Parkin** jparkin@winterhill.org.uk - Headteachers' PA.
Thank you for your continued support S Rhodes - Headteacher

SCHOOL ATTENDANCE AND ABSENCE (what to do if your child displays SYMPTOMS OF COVID-19)

As per the government's guidance, the usual rules regarding attendance will be in place, as of September.

However, parents must keep students off school if they, or anyone in their household, display any symptoms of COVID-19, following the Government's [guidance for households with possible coronavirus infection](#).

You must also inform school of their absence by calling the school absence line on **01709 740232, Extension 156 or 174**. The telephone system allows callers to leave a message 24 hours a day, or by email: admin@winterhill.org.uk F.A.O. a member of the Attendance Team.

If a student displays symptoms in school, parents will be informed and will be expected to collect their child (parents will be informed of the designated pick-up point).

The school has a clear procedure which ensures that any student displaying symptoms is quarantined within the school building, following Government guidance.

STUDENT WELLBEING

We know that some of our students may need time to adapt to these changes. To support them, we have worked very hard to ensure all systems and procedures are easy to follow, with clear signage around school. Students will have everything explained to them, with daily support from their Group Tutor alongside their Behaviour for Learning Leader.

If they have any specific concerns or worries, they should speak to their group tutor or Behaviour for Learning Leader, in the first instance. All information on the support package we offer to our students can be found on our website:

<https://www.winterhill.org.uk/safeguarding>. We also share a range of support materials from local well-being and mental health charities via our school Facebook page.

PROCEDURES FOR VISITORS TO SITE

We would ask that any visits to the school site are kept to an absolute minimum.

Meetings will be by appointment only, in the first instance.

Where appointments have been scheduled, entry is through the main school reception.



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