

Dear parent,

I hope you and your family are well and that your daughter or son is looking forward to returning to school and feels safe and confident about being back in the classroom. I wrote to you in August about the arrangements we have been putting in place to make all members of the school community as safe as possible. The parentmail with that information is on the school website under Letters to Parents if you wish to revisit it. If you are the parent of a Y12 student - welcome!

All the staff are here in school getting ready to start the term. As you know your child's school experience will be very different in terms of the rooms and spaces they will use, as each year will stay in one physical area or 'bubble' so that they only mix with other students in their year. This is to reduce the risk of infection. They will eat in this area and use toilets that are only used by their year group.

However, in terms of their educational experience, our provision remains the same, with all year groups following the same broad and rich curriculum as before, with the same amount of time in lessons. Only the lunchtime has been shortened to assist students with getting home before the rush hour if they need to use public transport. We have also staggered entry and exit times - see previous parentmail for details.

Face coverings

You will have heard or seen coverage in the press of the government's advice for schools about the use of facemasks in school. The DFE advice is here:

Face coverings in education - GOV.UK

Secondary headteachers have been asked to make a decision about whether face coverings should be worn in corridors, stairs and communal spaces. This decision needs to reflect the specific circumstances in each school, taking into account the school buildings and the risk of being unable to socially distance while walking from room to room.

In Camden School for Girls, our buildings do not generally have wide corridors and stairs and so we have taken the decision to require students and staff to wear face coverings in those areas, in all communal areas and on arrival in and departure from school.

This decision has not been taken lightly. In addition to concern about the narrowness of some of our corridors, we took into account the fact that we know many of our students and staff members are anxious about the transmission of the virus on their own behalf and because they may live with (or visit) elderly or vulnerable friends or relatives, and they want to take every measure possible to reduce this risk.

Please read the guidance for information about individuals who are exempt from wearing face coverings and about the correct way to wear and remove them, and how they should be stored. Could you let your child's Year Head know if your child is exempt, please? We will then circulate this information in complete confidence to appropriate staff.

What about classrooms?

In Year 12 and Year 13, face coverings must be worn in all lessons and this will be the norm.

However, if a teacher of a specific group or subject allows the covering to be taken off by students either for all or part of the lesson this will be permitted.

If face coverings are not required in a lesson students must remember to put them on at the end of the lesson to go into the corridor.

Food provision

As you know from my previous parentmail, we will be providing packaged food for students who wish to purchase it or who are entitled to it through free school meals eligibility. We are providing drinking water in all year group zones, however, we cannot provide cups so please make sure your child has a reusable water bottle to refill in school. If your child is bringing a

packed lunch from home, please make sure they bring cutlery if this is required as we cannot supply it.

We are very much looking forward to welcoming your child back into school and to seeing Camden School for Girls return to (nearly!) normal school life.

With very best wishes,

Elizabeth Kitcatt
Headteacher
Camden School for Girls