

Dear Form III,

Welcome to the new academic session. I hope that you have had a good summer and that you are looking forward to returning to school and starting your National 5 courses. There is no doubt that since we were all last in school that there have been some significant changes to how we live and go about our daily lives, and coming back to school will, in many ways, echo that.

Mr Burbury contacted parents recently with details of how we will be returning to school, starting the school day, and going about our school business from day to day. From the outset it must be stressed that we do not wish to return only to have the school closed and a return to online learning. Our preference is for the school to remain open, so your cooperation and compliance with how we will be working in school is essential. Please make sure that you read carefully what was sent to your parents - there is little appetite for anyone taking unnecessary risks so please do as you are being asked to do. There are some key points highlighted below.

Returning to school means we want everyone to be safe. This means we need you to act responsibly. Good hygiene habits are important. This means

- **frequent washing/sanitising of hands for 20 seconds and drying thoroughly, and always when entering/leaving a school building, before/after eating and after using the toilet.**
- **avoid touching your face including mouth, eyes and nose.**
- **using a tissue or elbow to cough or sneeze.**

Breaktimes and lunchtimes are staggered (Form III have break after period 1) – it is important to note that ***all pupils must remain on the campus at break and lunch, you are not allowed to go down town.***

What to bring

In addition to your usual books, stationery, etc. we ask that all pupils bring with them a PPE kit (face mask, hand sanitiser, alcohol wipes and disposable gloves - masks should not contain any logos or slogans), a packet of tissues is also a good idea. Also a reminder to bring your wrist band – if you have lost it, please contact the school office asap to arrange for a replacement to be issued to you.

Please bring any textbooks that you have from Form II with you on the first day. You will be given guidance from your teachers about what jotters / folders you will need for your National 5 courses when you see them.

Arriving in school

On arrival at school every morning, including the first day, you must go through one of the tents to get your temperature checked. For senior pupils these are located on both sides of the West Approach adjacent to the War Memorial. Only once you have been temperature checked and given the all clear should you then make your way to your Form Class. You will be given a ticket to give to your Form Tutor to confirm you have had your temperature checked.

If being dropped off by parents at the Mylne Avenue car park, Form III are asked to arrive between 8:40 and 8:50am.

Physical Distancing

The scientific advice is that physical distancing between young people in secondary schools is not required to ensure a safe return to schools. However, in the Senior school, we will be doing everything we can to encourage physical distancing while making sure everyone can come back to school full time. For example, staggered break times and one-way systems round buildings will be introduced, and you may be asked to be kept in specific class or year group 'bubbles'. Teachers will be recommended to maintain a 2m distance from pupils and if this is not possible, we have guidelines in place for this.

School Uniform and bags

School uniform should be worn. Blazers, initially, will be optional. You should wear your PE/Sports kit throughout the day on days when you have PE/Sport. In addition, **pupils will be required to keep their bags with them throughout the day and not leave them lying round the school.**

Lunches

A packed lunch is the easiest option for lunch. If you do not bring a packed lunch, the dining hall will offer a reduced menu, with three hot meal choices available inside the dining hall and three cold choices available for collection from a marquee. You **will not be able to go down town at break-time or lunchtime for food**, in order to avoid large gatherings in and around local shops. However, we are working with local providers to enable them to sell and distribute popular lunch-time items on the school site.

Co-curricular clubs

We aim to get our co-curricular programme up and running as soon as it is safe to do so. Some of our activities will be able to begin straight away, whilst others are more problematic. Further details about the co-curricular offering will follow in due course.

Assemblies

There will be no school or year group assemblies for the foreseeable future.

New Pupils

We are pleased to welcome 16 new pupils into the year group who have joined us from local schools and from several different countries. I know that they will be made to feel very welcome and we are looking for some buddies to help show them round - please send me a message via Chat on Teams or by email (childs-c@dollaracademy.org.uk) if you would be happy to help with being a buddy and I will let your Form Tutors know. Almost all the form classes have some new pupils joining.

Form Classes

There are no changes to Form Classes this term - your tutors and rooms remain the same.

I hope you are able to enjoy the last few days of your summer break - if there is anything that you want to ask about or are worried about then please get in touch with me by email or via Chat on Teams.

Mr McEwan, your Form Tutors and I look forward to seeing you all safe and well and back at school next week.

With best wishes



Catherine Childs
Head of Form III