



# Abbey School

an academy within Nexus MAT

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[www.abbeyschool.co](http://www.abbeyschool.co) [www.nexusMAT.org](http://www.nexusMAT.org)  
Executive Headteacher: Mrs. Luci Windle  
Head of School :Mr Wayne Askham



**INSPIRE...BELIEVE...ACHIEVE**

24.8.2020

Dear Families,

I hope this letter find you safe and well and you have managed to have a good Summer break with your children considering the circumstances we are living within. Whilst this may not be the warm welcome to the new school year that we would normally send I am wanting to clarify the arrangements for September so that you can feel as positive as possible about your child's return to school.

It is the expectation of the Government and Public Health that every child returns back to school in September, whilst this is an ideal I understand as a parent that this comes with some concern, worry and anxiety for us all. Covid is still very much within the communities that we serve and we have to now face the stark reality that a vaccine won't be available for some time to come. We will be sending a separate text message out to all families to give you opportunity to let us know whether you intend to send your child back in September and whether you feel a personal conversation with staff is needed to support you with any concerns that we may not have addressed in this letter. It is extremely important that you complete the answers on the text message once it is sent.

### What have we put in place to limit the spread of covid in our school?

Over the holidays we have installed outside classroom doors into the lower school classrooms. This means that all but 2 classrooms can be accessed via the playgrounds, limiting the amount of children on the corridors. We have enhanced the 'cleaning stations' so that every classroom has hand gel outside the door, inside the classroom and at key points around the school. Classrooms will be cleaned each night after the pupils have left and cleaning by the staff teams will be done throughout the school day. We will be restricting the amount of visitors that we have in school for example students placements from universities, monitoring inspections etc. Only health professionals will be in school to support pupils and they will wear face masks whilst they are in school.

Pupils will be met from their transport by staff and access their classrooms from the outside entrances rather than walk through reception. Once in the classroom pupils will wash their hands and personal equipment such as ipads or phones will be stored within the classrooms. Please do not send any items of significant value in or item that cannot be sanitised such as cuddly toys or blankets. Plastic items that can be wiped and sanitised are acceptable

Pupils in lower school corridor L1 to L6 will form a 'bubble', pupils in L7 to U2 will form another bubble and u3 to U6 will form an additional bubble. Post 16 WAVEE students will form their own bubble as will the 2 Horizon classes H1 and H2. This will help us use our own method to test, track and trace any potential outbreak.

Lunchtimes for pupils on the main site will be a limited menu eaten in the classrooms or outside if the weather permits. Lunch for Post-16 WAVEE will be taken as normal in their own town centre facility and Horizon pupils will collect dinner at a separate time to the rest of the school. Breaktimes will be staggered for all Abbey students. Horizon students will stay in their own base until the main school feels confident that their own procedures are working well, at this point our students will be able to join in with the relevant mainstream lessons.





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## School uniform expectations

It is part of the home school agreement that families send their child to school each day prepared and wearing the correct uniform. Staff work hard to ensure children understand and have a sense of fairness in our approach to dealing with uniform rules and due to the many different special needs we have at Abbey School it is essential that all families adhere to the school uniform rules. Please also ensure your child's name is clearly displayed on each piece of clothing they bring into school. It is recommended that children remove their school clothes when they arrive home and that these are washed to prevent cross contamination with covid.

For **main school** site uniform is a green jumper / cardigan with a Abbey School logo. White polo tshirt. Black or grey trousers, jogging bottoms, shorts or skirt. Black school shoes or trainers. PE kit should be a green tshirt, black shorts and suitable footwear. Please ensure your children PE kit remains in school as they will need it throughout the half term. If you wish to add an additional pair of tracksuit bottoms or jumper due to PE being outside for the vast majority of the academic year please do so.

The exception is for years 10 and 11 who have an additional choice of a green hoodie (emerald or forest green) without the school logo.

For **WAVEE post -16** we allow students to wear their normal everyday clothes although we do expect sensible attire and footwear at all times. Leisure wear can be sent in daily and students can change into this as and when leisure centres are in use again.

For **Horizon Students** – the code of dress followed by the main school students must be adhered to this is due to being part of Horizon School and not standing out from all the other students as the 'hub' students. This also includes PE kit.

## School Meals

Students on the main site will be given the option of breakfast this can be chosen weekly by each child to ensure you know what your child is eating. The daily dinner time meal menu is limited during the first term due to covid restrictions. Sandwiches can be brought in from home please ensure this is in a lunch box/bag that can be easily identified. .

Horizon pupils will be offered a limited menu that will be collected and eaten in the hub or outside if the weather permits. Sandwiches can also be brought if preferred please ensure they are in a self-contained lunch box.

Post-16 WAVEE students will be offered a more limited menu that replicates what is available in the main school. Again packed lunches can be sent in if wanted.





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## Classroom Environments

Due to risk assessments to help reduce the transmission of Covid our classrooms are not as highly decorated as they would normally. However we are trying to keep routines and classroom approaches as 'normal' as possible due to the needs of our pupils. Pupils will be returning to their old class teachers for the first 3 days of the new year as previously discussed. Currently pupils and staff are not required to wear masks in school.

## Covid Testing

It is vitally important that all families adhere to the school rules on informing school about any symptoms to ensure that we can easily track and trace. You should not send your child to school if they display any symptoms of covid such as a new persistent cough, high temperature, loss of taste or smell and also ensure your child receives a test to ensure we can track any potential transmission of the virus.

Pupils will be sent home if they are showing any of the symptoms. You should ensure you have made arrangements to pick your child up from school if requested to as this forms part of the home school agreement. If a child or member of staff tests positive for the virus the relevant affected families will be informed. It may be the case during a local lockdown that some pupils will need to stay to stay at home in this case the online learning offer will be used again as before.

Our focus for the Autumn term will be on wellbeing and being mentally healthy for all pupils. This will allow staff to ensure they build on the learning that has taken place with you at home and reintroduce the routines of learning in school again.

## Transport

Families should have been informed the updates for transport from their Local Authorities. Due to the new road development being delayed for Covid we will need to know whether you intend to transport your child yourself or via the normal transport offer. We will shortly be sending a text message with this information – it is vital that you reply to this when sent. If you are transporting your child you will need to wait at the bottom of the road until staff let you drive up. We will be allow groups of 6 vehicles up and down the road in a structured way for safety reasons. You will be allowed to drop your child off between 8.30 and 9.30 each morning for the first half term. Transport will drop off between 8.30 and 9 so please avoid the lane at these times. Home times will be from 3 until 3.30 and again only 6 vehicle will be allowed up at one time supervised by staff.

May I take this opportunity to welcome you all back to school on Wednesday 2<sup>nd</sup> September and the new pupils on Monday 7<sup>th</sup> September.

Yours Sincerely,

Mrs L Windle

Executive  
Headteacher.

