



Heathcote School & Science College

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Headteacher: Emma Hillman NPQH, MSc, MA



Wednesday, 09 September 2020



Dear Year 10 pupils, parents and carers,

It was great to see you in school on Tuesday and I look forward to welcoming you back on Thursday 10th at 8:40am.



As we all know, this is an unprecedented situation and we are all navigating our way around a new system. I would like to take this opportunity to reassure all pupils and parents that at the heart of our practice, your child's wellbeing will be our main priority this year. We have an experienced team of staff in place to ensure a supported transition into Year 10 in order to enable our pupils to make the progress they deserve.



Thursday 10th September 2020

We want to ensure that each school day gets off to a safe, stress free start. So, with the current Covid restrictions in place, we would ask that pupils aim to **arrive no earlier than 8.30am** and do not linger at the school gates. They should make their way through the designated entrance and go straight to period 1 for an **8.40am start**. This week only p1 Thursday will be spent with tutors in their base rooms.



Year 10 Tutors

I am very pleased to introduce you to our team this year. I'm happy to say that this has remained stable from last year, and we welcome back Ms Roberts from her maternity leave and our new team member, Ms Lamont:



supporting individual excellence



Head of Year	Ms Page	mpage@heathcote.waltham.sch.uk
SLT Lead	Ms Argyrakis	miriam.argyakis@heathcote.waltham.sch.uk
10.1	Ms Hannigan/Ms Roberts	rhannigan@heathcote.waltham.sch.uk
10.2	Ms Reid	sreid@heathcote.waltham.sch.uk
10.3	Ms Thomas	lthomas@heathcote.waltham.sch.uk
10.4	Mr Chambers	achambers@heathcote.waltham.sch.uk
10.5 (previously 9.6)	Ms Ismail	sismail@heathcote.waltham.sch.uk
10.6 (previously 9.7)	Ms Khan/Ms Lamont	skhan@heathcote.waltham.sch.uk



If you have any concerns or questions, please contact your child's tutor in the first instance.



Sustainable level 2010

Break and Lunch

As you know, pupils have met their form tutor and had a tour of the school site as well as being delivered presentations to aid understanding of how lunch and breaks will be facilitated.

If your child has chosen to have a school lunch, their lunch choices were noted and you will be charged for a total of 3 weeks and 2 days in advance, unless your child is entitled to free school meals. This must be promptly paid via Parent Mail. Pupils can opt for packed lunches but I must stress, healthy lunch is required and there must be no nuts brought into school. Pupils may also bring a healthy snack for breaktime as there will be no canteen service before school and at this time. Banned items remain in force - see the school website behaviour guidelines.

Risk Assessment

The measures that have been put in place to ensure that the school environment is 'Covid-secure' have been carefully explained to pupils, and all pupils and parents need to complete the Covid safety contract via Parent Mail before they return to school on Thursday. A detailed risk assessment will be published on the school website.

In order to reduce crowded corridors, communal spaces and to minimise contact between other year groups, we have:

- Staggered starts and finish times for each year group.
- Identified specific stairwells and entrance/exits for each year group.
- Identified clear routes to specialist areas such as languages, IT, DT, Music and PE.
- Allocated specific outdoor areas for students to take their break and lunch times.
- Allocated separate lunch times per year group with socially distanced allocated seating.

There will also be increased opportunities to hand sanitise and in order to make our classrooms safe, each has a sanitising station, bins and appropriate cleaning equipment.

Curriculum

From Thursday 10th September the Year 10 school day will be from **8.40am** ending at **2.40pm**. The bespoke recovery timetable has been developed with our key strategic aims in mind. In unprecedented times our focus is on the closing of gaps and catch up following the lock down. Whilst health and wellbeing is still paramount, we will ensure that the pupils continue receiving a broad and balanced curriculum, that practical subjects are still available, specialist staff are utilised as much as possible and that pupils learn and progress to the very best of their ability. In order to do this, pupils will currently not have PE or PIE (previously PSHRE) on their timetables (pupils studying PE GCSE or BTEC will still have their lessons).

The timetable will be reviewed every 3 weeks as we receive further local and national guidance. We are also developing plans to ensure the highest quality continuation of remote learning if there is another lockdown or school closure.

PE

As we believe that physical activity is highly beneficial to all students, we have organised PE lessons after school on a **Tuesday** for Y10 pupils from 3pm-4:15pm. The first PE session for Year 10 will commence on Tuesday 15th. To sign-up for this opportunity, there is a link set up on your child's SMHW to a google document. Please ensure they complete this before Friday 11th at 5:00pm. The sign-up process will need to be repeated each week to ensure we can plan and staff this session effectively. Please be mindful that we do not currently have use of changing facilities therefore, **if pupils are taking part on a Tuesday, they will need to attend school in their Heathcote PE kit and blazer.**

Equipment, Homework and Uniform

In order to fulfil our duty of care to our pupils, we would remind them of the following before returning on Thursday:

- We strongly recommend that all pupils have a face mask which they will wear when moving around the school. Pupils should bring in hand sanitiser if they can. This must be different to any face mask worn on a bus.
- Pupils should bring everything they need for the school day, including pens, pencils, rubber, ruler and calculator as per the guidance.
- They **will not** be allowed to share equipment in lessons.
- Pupils should also have a reading book, small umbrella and large bottle of water but no other unnecessary items.
- Water fountains will be limited but we hope to allocate one per year group.
- Pupils will be given new exercise books and will need to bring these to school as necessary for lessons that day.
- Home tasks will be signposted via SMHW and pupils may have to submit work through Google classroom - further details will follow about homework.
- Please ensure eye lashes, extra piercings and acrylic nails have been removed prior to returning on Thursday.

We hope that the above reassures you that we have put in place stringent practices and procedures to ensure the wellbeing and safety of all students during this period. Please do direct any queries or concerns to me via my email mpage@heathcote.waltham.sch.uk.

Best regards,

Mrs Page and the Year 10 Tutor Team