

Dear Parent/Guardian,

September re-opening – keeping your child, household and family safe

JSTC will be re-opening for all students across all year groups from September. Staff are looking forward to working with your child to reconnect with learning, address any gaps in learning and to enable your child to move forward with confidence. Our staff know your child well and we will work hard to address the needs of all our students. As ever, we need your support to do this effectively. It is more important than ever that we work together. The world that your child will face as we emerge from this crisis will be one that provides more challenges for our young people and we must ensure that all our students are well prepared for that challenge.

Term 1 – school will re-open to students with the following schedule in the ***first week***

(Please ensure students bring their own equipment including a fully stocked pencil case, scientific calculator and PE kit)

Thursday 3rd September;	Year 7 only
Friday 4th September;	Year 11 only
Monday 7th September;	Year 10 only (Plus selected Year 11 students)
Tuesday 8th September;	Year 9 only (Plus selected Year 11 students)
Wednesday 9th September;	Year 8 only (Plus selected Year 11 students)
Thursday September 10;	All year groups in school from this day onwards

This schedule is essential so that students can understand the different way that school will operate in order to address the Government guidelines that will be in place for September. Students will work within year group 'bubbles' meaning that students from one year group ***cannot interact and mix*** with students of another year group. We will be operating in a different way including a one-way system, staggered lunchbreaks with access to the canteen, no access to the canteen at breaktime (please ensure your child brings any snacks and drinks for breaktime), lining up zones for classrooms and restricted access to the school buildings. These, and other protective measures, will need careful explanation to each student to ensure they understand all aspects and therefore a focus on each cohort is essential prior to a successful full start.

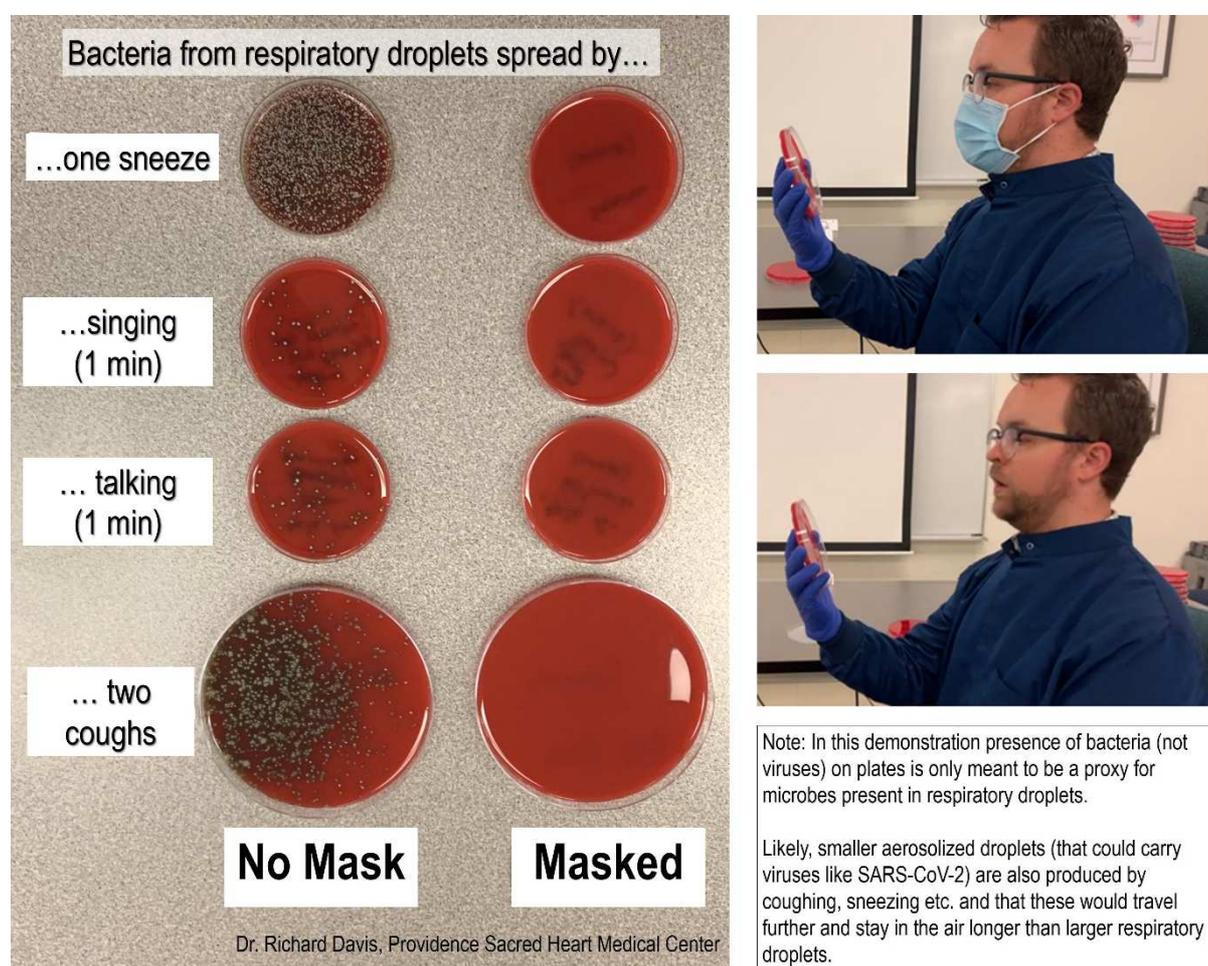
As a school community we are, of course, very concerned that we work to keep your child, your household and wider family safe. Research has clearly demonstrated that children can often be asymptomatic carriers of Covid19 but ***young people can spread Covid19 – indeed in the recent Leicester outbreak that has occurred***. Not having symptoms children and young people will usually not be tested but if they have the infection they can potentially pass Covid19 on. ***When we return, to comply with Government guidance of a full school with up to 30 children in a classroom, there will be no opportunity for social distancing. Even at 1m social distance the maximum capacity of any classroom is 15 students. Students will therefore be sat very close together***. Many of our students (just under a third of the school) have underlying health conditions, as do staff, parents and more elderly members of wider families where the risk is greater. Covid19 is more easily spread in indoor environments where people cluster together and remain for a significant period of time. This is of course what a school is. We also appreciate that our holiday coast environment means that travel from more infectious centres in the UK is possible. As we head into cooler weather this will also enhance transmission rates.

Additionally, there is little potential for social distancing nor the protection of 'bubbles' on the school buses which means that all cohorts will be mixed on buses and all schools in Alford will be together, as usual, on the same buses as planned. The County Council are encouraging parents to drive their children to school, to walk or cycle as a protective measure. To protect your child, our staff, yourselves

at home and other vulnerable members of your wider family that you have or will form 'social bubbles' with – especially the older members of your family - ***we will require your child to wear a facemask when in school classrooms as they effectively cut transmission rates by 70%. These will not need to be worn when they are outside, at break and lunchtimes or if being taught outside classrooms.*** We will be able to advise your child how to use the facemask, clean it and help with making a mask if you have not made one already. These must be worn on buses.

How a facemask protects your child, household and vulnerable members of your family

Viruses are smaller than bacteria, but in the liquid droplet that they leave our mouths and noses within, they are roughly the same size. The use of a facemask cuts down the transmission of bacteria (and therefore viruses in droplets) from our mouths and noses when sneezing, coughing and talking. The image below shows how bacteria end up on the agar plate, and grow into colonies, when using and not using a mask. By using facemasks when inside classrooms your child will be safer (around 70% plus safer) from viral transmission and will protect others if they are carriers. The wearing of facemasks is also expected on buses as a condition of transportation to and from school. This will in turn protect your household and wider family (***please see evidence below***)



By using facemasks in the classroom setting we will be able to better control any sources of infection, stay open and protect everyone in school. This will help your child catch up as well as well as enabling you to return more quickly to a normal life. Whilst we have remained open students have been wearing facemasks and despite local infections we have avoided any in school.

Handwashing and use of sanitiser will also take place at significant intervals throughout the day and I would ask that you encourage your child to wash their hands frequently – especially before eating, after going to the toilet, after removing and replacing a facemask and at any other possible time.

If your child is supported by an LSA there will be differences in the way that they will work to support your child. This difference will be communicated to you prior to the full re-start of the school in

September. It is important to understand at this stage that LSAs will not be able to work as closely with students as has been possible in the past as staff must be 2m from a student.

There will be many other differences that will impact on the way that we work with parents. We will be operating an appointment only system for any face to face meetings, but we envisage that support for parents and opportunities to discuss concerns will take place over the telephone. We will also operate a different system for Parent Evening conversations and will be in touch in the autumn term on return to school to give you details of the system in operation. It is important that we maintain our communication with parents and families to support your child.

As a school we expect good standards of behaviour and when returning to school this expectation is maintained. We are proud of the good behaviour our students generally demonstrate on a daily basis, and remain confident that the overwhelming majority of students will continue to present as respectful learners in the classroom. Our behaviour system of C1-C4 will continue to operate as before lockdown but we will not be able to operate fully as normally. If a child is disruptive and their behaviour presents a challenge both to the smooth running of the school and the health and safety of the community of staff and learners we will ask you to collect your child from school. Your child will then only be allowed to return with a risk assessment in place to address and remove the poor behaviour. To protect all in our community, our zero tolerance to the bringing of prohibited items – including alcohol, drugs and weapons – remains.

Should there be an outbreak in school, local area or other situation that arises that precipitates a local lockdown we will communicate this information to as soon as possible with detailed guidance. A local lockdown is likely to cause the full closure of the school. Should this happen we will continue to prepare work online including virtual lessons for identified year groups. Attendance at virtual lessons will be mandatory but we will continue to support those families who experience difficulties with online teaching.

Should members of your household show any symptoms of Covid19 (fever or cough or loss of smell and taste) it is important that you report those symptoms, isolate as a household and get a Covid19 test. Please also inform the school. ***If the test is positive it is important that you report this to the school as a matter of urgency.*** If staff become ill, it may also be necessary to close or partially close the school therefore the health and wellbeing of all of us is important to keep the school open.

I know that this has been an intensely difficult time for many students and their families as it has for our staff and theirs. Our staff will continue to work hard to support your child and to re-engage them in the love of learning again. Together we can successfully come through this situation with the health and safety of all those in our community as a primary aim. Staff very much want to work with your child and yourselves to address the learning gaps that I am sure you are concerned about to ensure your child can make good progress. As a school, we are determined to make sure your child feels confident in school, re-engages with learning and rapidly makes progress back to where we all want them to be academically, socially and emotionally.

We welcome any questions ahead of school re-opening in September and ask that you contact us via the relevant pastoral e-mail address for your child's year group available on the JSTC website.

Stay safe, and we very much look forward to seeing your child back at JSTC in September.

Yours sincerely,

Ms J Shorrocks

Headteacher