



13th July 2020

**The South Wolds
Academy
and Sixth Form**

Dear Parents and Carers,

The DfE has now published guidance for the full opening of schools from September 2020 and the team at South Wolds have been working hard to plan accordingly in order to follow this guidance. I understand how helpful it is to share our plans with you in advance to allow you time to make necessary arrangements and I can confirm that the first week back in September will see year groups welcomed back in the following stages:

- Wednesday 2nd September: Year 7 and Year 12
- Thursday 3rd September: Years 8, 9 and 13
- Friday 4th September: Years 10 and 11

We will be running induction days for our new Year 7 and 12 to allow the important opportunity to offer reassurance and training for students given the remote nature of induction so far this term. Mr Askham and Mrs Rowe (Heads of Year 7 and 8) will be writing to our new Year 7 parents before the end of term to share details of the day. Details of the Year 12 induction day will be available as part of the GCSE results day information on 20th August.

Once a year group has started back, they will be involved in a welcome back assembly to celebrate being back together and also to receive clear instructions on new systems that we have in school to keep everyone safe. Once these assemblies have taken place, students will begin their new timetables immediately. Individual student timetables will be emailed to you on 1st September and students will also receive a copy during their first morning back in school. It is important that students bring their own equipment in to school every day: the basic requirements of a pen, pencil, eraser, ruler, and calculator are expected of all students.

Students are expected back in full school uniform and a link to the school's expectations can be found [click here](#). Whilst the wider closure of schools may have been an exciting time to trial a different shade of hair colour for example, please ensure that your child's haircut and colour are suitable for school in line with our clear guidance and that any fashion colours have been fully washed out in good time for the start of term. Please can you also send your child to school with a full water bottle and a snack for break time as the water fountains and break time food service are not currently operational: this will be kept under review and any changes communicated home to you.

We will be operating a one way system around the site from September in order to reduce instances of face to face contact and also classrooms will be set up in rows with front facing desks in line with current guidance. Part of each student's induction will be to go over routines for movement around the site and we will also have clear signage in place to aid this.

We have also adjusted the school timings to stagger break and lunchtimes for students. This is to keep year groups separate as far as possible. The start of school will remain the same as we are served by a number of school buses for example – we are working closely with the local authority with regard to bus travel and if your child does or intends to catch a bus to and/or from school I would ask that you take a moment to complete a very brief travel questionnaire. The purpose is to supply the LA with approximate numbers for our

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Deputy Head Teachers



dedicated bus services and also so that they can plan for possible increased use in public transport from September and make necessary arrangements. You can find the link to the survey [click here](#). I have also included on the survey current government and local authority guidance regarding the use of transport to school for your information. Please note that your child will need to wear a face mask for travel if the current government guidance does not change.

The school day begins at 8.50am and all students should be in classrooms at this time. The site is open before then and students will be asked to go straight to their period 1 classrooms. We will also stagger the end of the day to minimise the mixing of year groups, allowing Post-16 and Year 11 students to depart at 3.10pm, Year 10 and 9 students to then depart at 3.15pm and finally Year 7 and 8 students to depart at 3.20pm. Please can you talk to your child to reinforce this expectation regarding gathering in large groups – it is not appropriate for students to gather, either off-site or on-site, given the current guidance. Students must make their way straight on to site via the Refectory. Your support with the above is greatly appreciated.

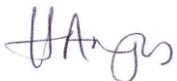
I shall write to you before the end of term with full details on the return to school but I wanted to give you as much notice as possible so that you can make your practical arrangements. If you have any questions then please email office@southwolds.notts.sch.uk and from these I will then create FAQs on the website for your reference.

Most of our students have been away from school for a long time and although they have continued with their learning remotely, I recognise that their experience is without precedent in recent times. Please rest assured that we will make sure that they are supported to adjust to the resumption of school and that their wellbeing and the achievement of their potential remains our priority.

My staff and I are looking forward to welcoming all students back to school again and although there will be some changes to the way we operate, we are committed to ensuring that a full and ambitious curriculum continues to be offered in a safe, calm, caring and purposeful environment.

I shall write to you at the beginning of next week with final details for our return in September.

Yours sincerely



Halina Angus
Head Teacher