

IDSALL SCHOOL

www.idsallschool.org



Parent newsletter

May 2020

Dear All,

I hope you are all well and keeping safe.

We are now in a position to update you on how the school will function until the end of term. We have worked hard on plans to re-open the school for Year 10 and Year 12 students in line with the Government announcements this week. The provisional date for Year 10 and 12 students to return is Monday, 15th June. This is not compulsory, but we are aiming to offer a teaching experience to those key exam groups.

- Firstly, we will continue to provide a place for a critical worker child where it is not appropriate for them to work from home. You can book a place by emailing info@idsall.shropshire.sch.uk or by calling the school office. As previously, evidence of your employment will be collected. An ID badge or your critical worker letter is enough and can be photographed and attached to the email (this will be deleted when we have checked your keyworker status).
- The published list of key workers as defined by the government is as follows:
 - Health and social care
 - Education and childcare
 - Key public services
 - Local and national government
 - Food and other necessary goods
 - Public safety and national security
 - Transport
 - Utilities, communication and financial services

If parents think they fall within the critical categories above, they should confirm with their employer that, based on their business continuity arrangements, their specific role is necessary for the continuation of this **essential public service**.

Further detail can be found here:

<https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/coronavirus-covid-19-maintaining-educational-provision/guidance-for-schools-colleges-and-local-authorities-on-maintaining-educational-provision>

Free School meals:

- Parents who are entitled to free school meals can claim a voucher of £15 a week to spend at a well-known supermarket of their choice to support them during this difficult time. Once set up, an 'eCode' will be sent directly to the parent or carers of the student(s) eligible for free school meals via email – they will need to choose an eGift card that they can download. **To apply, parents/carers need to go to Shropshire Council FSM website, the link is: www.shropshire.gov.uk/free-school-meals.**

- We will continue to send free school meal vouchers to students in years 7, 8, 9, 11 and 13 who have already applied for these.

Please note that we will need to close the school for two days for primary school induction days early in July. We will send out details about this nearer the time.

From Monday 15th June, 9am to 3pm

For year 12 only:

We plan to offer a two hour lecture in each of the students' subjects. This timetable will be emailed out to students in June and students will need to book onto lectures using a booking system. Students will only be expected in school during these times and the sixth form area will not be available at any other times.

For year 10 only:

Each lesson will be one hour and 30 minutes and there will be three during the day; attendance will be requested Monday to Friday. The timetable will not involve any practical subjects. Students will be spaced out one to a double desk and will remain in this classroom all day, with the teacher moving to the different classrooms. Students may not have their usual teachers and classes will be split with no more than 15 students in each class.

Breaks and lunch time will be at different times and staggered so students will have lunch at different times. They will have an area to go outside and stretch their legs and get some fresh air; strict social distancing rules will remain in place. Lunch will be available and will be delivered to each classroom. If your child has any special dietary requirements, you will need to let us know so we can cater for them. Students can bring additional food from home. Students will need to ensure they bring their equipment with them.

For both years 10 and 12:

Uniform is not expected during this period. School will be open from 9am to 3pm only, Monday to Friday.

Hopefully, during this time, we can offer some quality face-to-face teaching that has been sadly missed during this difficult time.

Please can you complete the following questionnaire, if your son/daughter is in Year 10 or 12, so we can prepare and know how many students we will be expecting:

www.google.com/booking in form

We will be insisting that all students:

- Do not come into school if you, or any members of your household, have any symptoms of coronavirus such as a persistent cough or high temperature, loss of taste or smell, or you are feeling unwell.
- Abide by the social distancing measures in place throughout the school including walking on the left hand side of the corridors.
- Try to keep a 2 metre distance from staff where possible and keep a distance away from others. Use the markers in each classroom, and follow the teachers' instructions carefully.
- Use the hand sanitiser provided regularly.
- Wash your hands frequently.

- Remain at your desk – that will be your station for the day.
- Stick to the areas that we tell you are allowed.
- Follow the traffic light system to minimise the numbers of students in the student bathrooms.

Transport

We are working with AT Brown to ensure we can provide transport to and from school.

The plan is to limit the number of students on coaches. In addition, to protect students and drivers, students will need to use a face mask while on the coach – the school does have masks if your child needs one. Please contact us by email to info@idsall.shropshire.sch.uk in advance if you need one.

Years 7 to 9

If your child is in year 7, 8 or 9, it is anticipated that students will not return to school before September.

We recognise that Key Stage 3 students will be learning remotely for a considerable time. This is a challenge for the students, parents/carers and teachers. There have been queries around the use of live video lessons by parents, but for a number of reasons, in particular safeguarding, this has not been possible. As part of our plans to support remote teaching and learning, I want to let you know we will be complementing our own resources set on SMHW for years 7 to 9 with those from Oak National Academy.

This online classroom has been created by teachers specifically to support students' learning at home. Oak is a free website available at www.thenational.academy. It is backed by the Department for Education. You can access Oak's online classroom on any device, you don't need to log in or remember a password. Your child can access lessons across a range of subjects, to supplement the work provided by the class teachers.

Each lesson is delivered by a trained teacher, over a pre-recorded video, and it's very clear at the start of each session anything you might need (such as pens, paper etc.). The lessons are designed to need minimal supervision. This will support students in Years 7 to 9 who would like additional support, or additional challenge.

In addition, the Government has published advice on helping children continuing their education during lockdown which can be found on the following weblink:

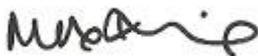
<https://www.gov.uk/guidance/help-secondary-school-children-continue-their-education-during-coronavirus-covid-19>

Remember all subjects will be setting an assessed piece of work for all year 10 learners in light of no exams taking place this summer. This will need to be returned for marking via the Show My Homework app. A schedule will set to spread the assessments out.

For years 7 to 9, a self-assessed piece of work will be set, with a mark scheme provided after the completion date so students can self-assess how they have done.

Finally, I am sure you will join me in thanking staff who have been working hard during this difficult time to ensure there is plenty of online learning to complete, to keep every student active and learning. Also, the staff who have made the school safe to re-open during this time.

Best regards, keep safe and have a restful half term.



Ms M King
Headteacher

