



The Raddlyffe School
"Working Together for Excellence"

Newsletter

Summer 2020



Plans in place
to welcome
everyone back
to school



Our September 2020 reopening plan

From the Headteacher Mr Cregg

Further to my letter of 3rd July I am writing to you with details of the school's plans for reopening in September 2020. As outlined in my previous letter, I fully understand the challenges that families have faced during the period of school closure and lockdown. We are very grateful for the support that you have provided for your child's education during that time.

Our plans for welcoming our students back in September consist of two phases. Phase 1 will cover the first week of the academic year (Wednesday 2nd – Friday 4th September), Phase 2 will begin on Monday 7th September and continue from that date.

The arrangements for Phase 2 will remain in effect until the Department for Education (DfE) indicates a change to the national guidance issued to schools on 2nd July.

Phase 1: Induction and Reintegration

(Wednesday 2nd – Friday 4th September)

By September the vast majority of our current students, particularly those in our new Years 8-10, will not have experienced any 'in-school' education for nearly six months. In addition, we will have an incoming cohort of new Year 7 students who have had none of the usual induction visits and instead have had to try to learn about their new school by only using the resources on our website.

As a school it is our strong belief that the mental health and well-being of our young people needs to be our highest priority at this time, following what has been an extremely difficult and limiting period for our children. We believe that it is vital to ensure that all our students experience a safe and positive return to school in order to reduce their levels of stress and to provide them with the best opportunity for success later in the term.

In order to achieve this with the staffing and spaces available to us we have made the decision to offer a 'blended' curriculum during Phase 1, with a combination of in-school and home learning experiences. On the first day of term, school will be open to new Year 7 students **only** so that they can receive a full induction and orientation day, supported by all of our staff. Year 7 students will also attend school for full days on Thursday and Friday.

Our Summer 2020 reopening plan

All students in other year groups (the new Years 8-11) will be set home learning tasks to complete on the Wednesday. They will also be invited to come into school on Thursday **or** Friday for an individual well-being meeting and discussion with their Personal Learning Guide (PLG). Our PLGs have provided wonderful support for our young people during the period of school closure and we very much want this to continue.

We held similar meetings for many of our current Year 10 students prior to their return in June and the feedback was very positive. Students will be sent an individual appointment time and they will be asked to arrive shortly before the meeting and return home afterwards. They will also be set home learning tasks to complete on Thursday and Friday.

Letters informing families of the times of their child's PLG appointment will be posted in August.

All students must wear full school uniform when attending school during this week.

We fully appreciate that the plans outlined above mean that the return to full-time in-school education for many students will be delayed. It remains our belief, though, that not offering such levels of support to our young people would be extremely detrimental and would result in lost or less effective learning in the future.

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Need more information?

We are continuing to add information and guidance onto the Coronavirus Information section on the school website.

From helping your children access home learning online, to sharing the resources on offer from Oldham Libraries, or helping students start to think about making a successful future, we want to offer as much guidance as we can.

Visit www.theradclyffeschool.co.uk to discover more.

Summary of Phase 1 arrangements

Check which days you are in school or home learning

A summary of Phase 1 for each year group is as follows: -

Wednesday 2nd September

Year 7 - In school all day (8.30am – 2.00pm) for an Induction Day

Year 8 - Learning from home using online (Frog) or paper resources

Year 9 - Learning from home using online (Frog) or paper resources

Year 10 - Learning from home using online (Frog) or paper resources

Year 11 - Learning from home using online (Frog) or paper resources

Thursday 3rd September

Year 7 - In school all day (8.30am – 3.00pm) for introductory lessons

Year 8 - Attending school for a 20-minute well-being meeting with their PLG and learning from home using online (Frog) or paper resources

Year 9 - Learning from home using online (Frog) or paper resources

Year 10 - Attending school for a 20-minute well-being meeting with their PLG and learning from home using online (Frog) or paper resources

Year 11 - Learning from home using online (Frog) or paper resources

Friday 4th September

Year 7 - In school all day (8.30am – 3.00pm) for introductory lessons

Year 8 - Learning from home using online (Frog) or paper resources

Year 9 - Attending school for a 20-minute well-being meeting with their PLG and learning from home using online (Frog) or paper resources

Year 10 - Learning from home using online (Frog) or paper resources

Year 11 - Attending school for a 20-minute well-being meeting with their PLG and learning from home using online (Frog) or paper resources

Phase 2 arrangements

How we will accommodate all students

Phase 2: Full Opening under DfE Guidance (Monday 7th September onwards)

All students will be expected to attend school full-time from Monday 7th September onwards. The school will offer a regular timetable of five one-hour periods of lessons in all subjects and all usual rules relating to uniform and behaviour will be in effect.

Despite being open to all students, the operation and structure of the school will be significantly different to our pre-closure arrangements. We have had to comply with the guidance from the DfE, particularly the following directives: -

- *"The overarching principle to apply is reducing the number of contacts between children and staff. This can be achieved through keeping groups separate (in 'bubbles') and through maintaining distance between individuals"*
- *"In secondary schools, and certainly in the older age groups at key stage 4 and key stage 5, the groups are likely to need to be the size of a year group"*
- *"All teachers and other staff can operate across different classes and year groups in order to facilitate the delivery of the school timetable"*
- *"The curriculum remains broad and ambitious: all pupils (should) continue to be taught a wide range of subjects"*

For this phase, we have decided to create separate 'bubbles' of year groups and plan to deliver our curriculum whilst adhering to the following principles: -

- Each year group will have its own distinct school entrance and exit route (see below)
- Every effort will be made to ensure that students of different year groups do not mix with one another
- Each year group will be allocated to one corridor of the school and will (with some exceptions for practical subjects) receive all of their teaching within the classrooms on that corridor

- Students from different classes are permitted to socially mix with their peers on their corridor but for most subjects they will be taught in consistent groups
- All classrooms will be adapted so that, for example, all desks face the front of the class
- Teachers will move to the corridor /classroom where their class is situated – students will remain in that location in order to reduce movement
- Social times (Break 1 and Break 2 [lunch]) will be staggered so that no more than two year groups are taking a break at the same time
- Year groups will be designated as being either 'red' or 'blue' and will only be able to access zones of the school, parts of the Café and outdoor areas allocated to that colour
- All students will have access to Café Mojo during their social times
- Students will be expected to arrive at school at 8.30am – please note it will not be possible for them to access the school site before this time
- The school day will end at 2:50pm (on Monday, Tuesday, Thursday and Friday) and 1:50pm on Wednesday.
- It will not be possible to hold the usual pre-school PLG meetings: instead, these will be scheduled to take place during the school day once per fortnight
- Each day will begin with a 15 minute 'Welcome and Wellbeing' period. This will take place in the student's Period 1 classroom and be supervised by their Period 1 teacher
- Online assemblies will be delivered during this period



Entering and leaving the building

Year Group Colours, Entrances & Exits* and Classroom Locations**

Year 11 - BLUE

Entrance TRAC Entrance → Fire Exit Staircase to 3B02 / 3B03

Classroom Location: Science Corridor (3B)

Year 10 - BLUE

Entrance by Visitors' Entrance → Fire Exit Staircase to 2B10 / 2B11

Classroom Location: English classrooms on Corridor 2B

Year 9 - RED

Entrance: Visitors' Reception → Spiral Staircase to Level 3

Classroom Location: Maths Corridor (3C)

Year 8 - BLUE

Entrance: Student Entrance (Blue Side)

Classroom Location: MFL classrooms on Corridor 2B / SPA classrooms (2A&G)

Year 7 - RED

Entrance: Student Entrance (Red Side)

Classroom Location: Humanities Corridor (2C)

* Exit points are the same as entrances, with steps reversed where appropriate.

**Some classes will be located slightly away from these corridors due to rooming restrictions



Further information

Social Times – Break 1 and Break 2

Although it will not be necessary to stagger the start and end times of the school day, we have had to stagger social times for our five year groups. Instead of a short morning break followed by a longer lunch break, all students will now have two social time breaks – Break 1 and Break 2 – each of 30 minutes.

The staggered breaks will be named Breaks 1a, 1b, 1c, 2a, 2b and 2c.

Please see the '[Day Pattern' document](#)' on the website for the details of when break will occur for each of the five year groups.

'Red' and 'Blue' year groups who have breaks at the same time will be kept apart and will only be able to access their respective zones of the school.

Health & Safety Measures, Hygiene Procedures and Response to Covid-19 Cases in School

The school will follow in full all of the guidance relating to Health and Safety measures and hygiene procedures. We will also fully carry out all of our legal responsibilities with regard to dealing with individual cases or larger outbreaks of Covid-19.

As you can read above, the school has had to undertake a great deal of planning in a very short space of time in order to ensure that we can welcome our students back in September whilst following the national guidance. Some very difficult decisions have had to be made, but throughout our planning we have at all times prioritised the safety, mental health and well-being of our students and staff as well as national public health advice.

Further information will be sent to you in due course and will be posted on our website.

If you have any questions regarding the information in this letter, please do not hesitate to contact me at the school.

Yours faithfully,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'J. Cregg', with a stylized flourish at the end.

Mr. J Cregg, Headteacher

Please remember masks for public transport

Travel advice for September

How will your child be traveling to school in September? If you choose to use buses, trams or the Yellow Bus service, please note that your child will very likely need to wear a mask or face covering while they are aboard.

To avoid congestion outside school at the start and end of the school day, we would suggest that if you are arriving by car, please enter Hunt Lane from its junction with Middleton Road and exit via Broadway.

We want to avoid disruption for all of our neighbours on Hunt Lane. Please park considerately. Wherever possible, please allow your child to travel to school on foot or by bike. We have lots of room for bicycles (you will need to bring a lock!)

Shopping for school uniform

Now that shops have reopened, we have received information from one of our suppliers, Monkhouse Ltd, giving guidance on shopping safely at their Oldham store. We have added the information to our guidance on the [school website](#).

Information for the new school year

Have you visited our new webpage which aims to introduce the school to our new Year 7 students and parents? We are needing to organise the transition from primary to secondary very differently this year, so we have tried to put all the information in one place.



With everything from welcome videos from our Headteacher and the Year Manager for Year 7, Miss Hunt, to fantastic education resources you can use at home we hope this gives our new starters all they need to make a successful start to life at The Radclyffe School. It should also be of interest to parents and students in all year groups.

Students and staff stay active

National School Sports Week at Home

Students and their families at The Radclyffe School got active during National School Sports Week in June.

Though in-school sport days couldn't take place this summer, the Youth Sport Trust took its annual National School Sport Week campaign beyond the school gates to parents and families – reinvented as National School Sport Week at Home.

With social distancing in place, students and staff at The Radclyffe School participated in a number of challenges.

School Sports Co-ordinator Mr Finc said, "Though we can't be in school to celebrate the week, we have activities for all abilities. We know that school sport and PE play a vital role in enhancing our young people's wellbeing. Right now, students are missing their friends and the sense of connection they get through sport".

The Youth Sport Trust resources gave great suggestions everything from athletics, aiming sports, team and adventure sports and artistic activities.

Youth Sport Trust Chief Executive Ali Oliver said, "We are thrilled that the Radclyffe school is backing National School Sport Week at Home to ensure no child misses out on their school sports day this summer.

Sport has such a crucial role to play in promoting young people's well being and this has never been more apparent than it is now."

Lockdown learning earns School Sport Award

We are delighted to announce that we have been recognised for our efforts in promoting sport and healthy lifestyles during the school closure.

Oldham School Sports Partnership have awarded the school the Virtual School Games Award. Congratulations to all the PE Department and to all students (and parents!) who have taken part in activities over recent months.

Laptop loan scheme to help students with schoolwork

Digital learning given a boost—story: Oldham Council

Year 10 students and vulnerable children in Oldham have begun to receive much needed laptops to help them with their schoolwork.

Oldham Council has managed to secure devices from a Department of Education scheme – seen as a vital lifeline during lockdown and the summer holidays.

Over 1200 devices have been distributed to schools to allocate to those most in need, with additional devices going directly to local academies.

The aim is to prevent those who don't have access to devices at home from falling behind during the partial closures of schools. Year 10 pupils in particular have been earmarked as those in need due to impending GCSE examinations next year.

Oldham Council has worked closely with local schools to ensure a wide selection of digital platforms, including websites and social media, have been available for students to get access to schoolwork and other suitable learning tools. Digital learning will remain a key factor during the summer months.



Mr Clegg, Headteacher of The Radclyffe School said, “The laptops for Year 10s scheme will provide vital support to our students, enabling them to push on with their studies even when they can't be physically in the school building. It has been a steep learning curve for both staff and students but I am very proud of all the effort that has been put in. We are delighted to work with Oldham partners to drive this forward.”

Councillor Shaid Mushtaq, Cabinet Member for Education, said, “I have been blown away by the hard work and dedication of schools and council staff during the Covid crisis as well as the adaptability and patience of many children, young people, their families and carers.

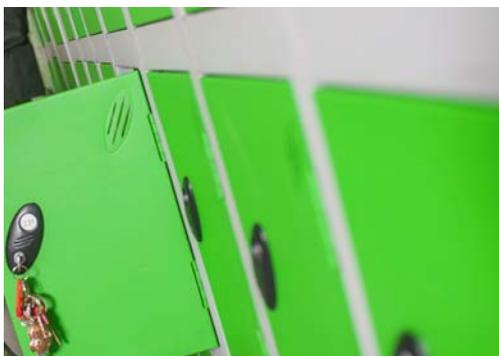
“The need to use digital platforms has been key to this but we know many vulnerable young people do not have access to a computer and we have been working hard to support people through a range of means.

Student Lockers

Restrictions means out of use

Due to the changes and restrictions that we have had to introduce from September, students will not be able to use their lockers when they return to school.

Students in the **current** Years 7-10 will be able to access their lockers and empty them of their belongings when they attend school on 3rd or 4th September for their PLG meeting. After this time (while restrictions are in place) they will not be able to use them.



Students in the **new** Year 7 starting in September will not be sent the usual forms to apply for a locker at this time.

When the restrictions are lifted, new Year 7 students will be able to apply for a locker and the students in all other year groups will be able to use their existing lockers.

Wi-fi pilot scheme boosts internet access

We are taking part in a pilot scheme with BT WiFi and Oldham Council which offers internet access to families who do not currently have broadband or internet access at home.

Increased internet access is available to families with vulnerable and disadvantaged children from early years up to 16 if you:

- don't have access to a fixed broadband connection
- cannot afford the additional data needed to access educational resources or social care services.

In order to be able to benefit from the pilot scheme you need to have access to a BT Wi-fi hotspot (this does not mean you have BT Wi-fi yourselves but it is available in your area) – you can check this at <https://www.btwifi.com/find/> and will show up on your device's available WiFi networks as "BT Wi-fi".

Full details on the website at <https://bit.ly/3h1hQP8>

Caring for students' mental health

Our approach rewarded by Education for Wellbeing

Even before the pandemic, at The Radclyffe School we have recognised how important it is to care for the mental health and wellbeing of all our students, and our staff.

During this year we have had the opportunity to take part in a research programme, supported by the Department for Education, and carried out by a team from the University of Manchester.

Assistant Headteacher and Safeguarding Lead Mrs Harrison said, "We have been delighted to be part of this cutting-edge research trail, which investigates the impact of five innovative approaches aiming to promote student wellbeing."

Our involvement doesn't stop here, with further options available for specialist mental health and wellbeing training for staff from the autumn term."

We can all take action to look after our own wellbeing, and through the partnership you can take advantage of a free resource pack, #selfcaresummer, which you are able to download or share with anyone who you think might benefit.

You can find this online at <https://bit.ly/2C1fXI1>



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