



Hendon
Prep 1873

Back to school

Our plans for the September return



MESSAGE FROM THE EXECUTIVE TEAM



Dear Parents

Well, what a term! How we wished for a crystal ball these last few months. We have made plans A, B, C and X as guidance has changed, often in the space of a day or two. We have guessed, second-guessed and then guessed again what the government guidance would be and how it would impact our school community. We do hope that one thing has been constant during this period however: our unwavering dedication to do the very best for our pupils.

We were so pleased that the efforts made to re-open school safely for the selected year groups have been recognised by you. In the recent survey 100% of you agreed that both you as a family and your child benefited from going back to back to school, 95% agreed that that the return to school process was well managed by the school, and 88% thought that every possible risk mitigation that the school could have taken *was* taken. Some of your lovely comments are included at the back of this document. Thank you also for the ideas and requests some of you made as we turn our attention to the new academic year in September.

We do not know for certain what September will bring, but we have made plans based on a number of scenarios and have closely followed the evolving government advice. By imagining and then planning for the different possible scenarios we will be faced with in September we believe we are set up to step into the new academic year with confidence and vigour.

One overall reflection we have is that we want our school to persevere with some of the very best advances in education that came from this period. Such as how our staff adapted their educational methods, how we embraced a new way of doing things, how the students coped with uncertainty and change, and how we built a new and deeper relationship with you, our parent body.

We will of course be continuing with our enhanced cleaning regime next year and you can help by making regular handwashing part of your daily routine during the holidays.

With that context in mind we are excited to share with you some exciting new initiatives, as part of the Cognita family of schools, later on in this booklet. These initiatives will capitalise on what we have learned over the last few months, take our educational and wellbeing provision for your child to the next level, and prepare us should a second wave require a localised lockdown.

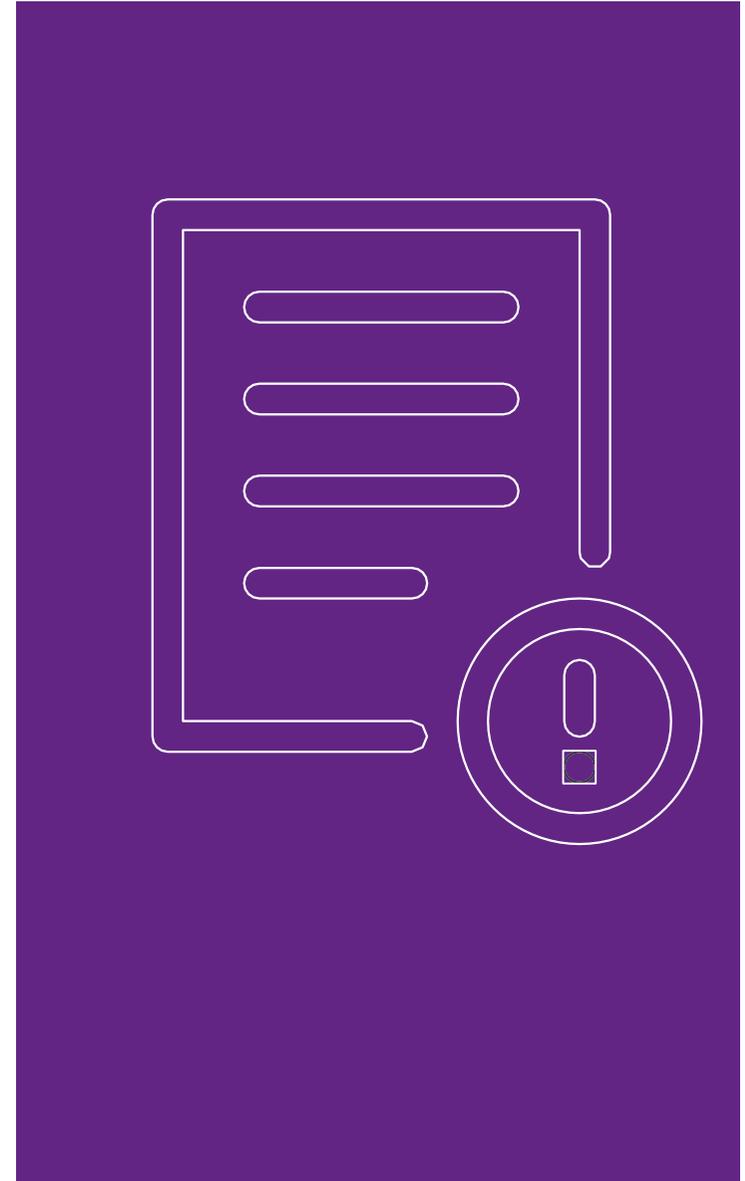
Thank you once again for your support of the school this Summer Term, and for your encouragement and feedback. We wish you all a happy and safe summer and look forward to an exciting new academic year. We will release our detailed 'Return to School' brochure during the summer break. As ever, please let me know if you have any questions.

Kind regards

Mrs S Davies and Mrs T Gorasia
Executive Head and Head of School

HIGHLIGHTS FOR NEXT YEAR

1. Back to normal - this means open and running a normal day for all year groups, within the government guidelines.
2. Catch up support - for any students who feel that they would benefit from revisiting any subject learning post lockdown.
3. Wellbeing - a focus on both students and staff to help them emotionally process the lockdown experience.
4. Safety – risk mitigation to include enhanced cleaning and hygiene measures with new procedures for confirmed cases and outbreaks
5. Growth mindset - taking the lockdown experience and continuing to innovate and grow from what we have learnt.

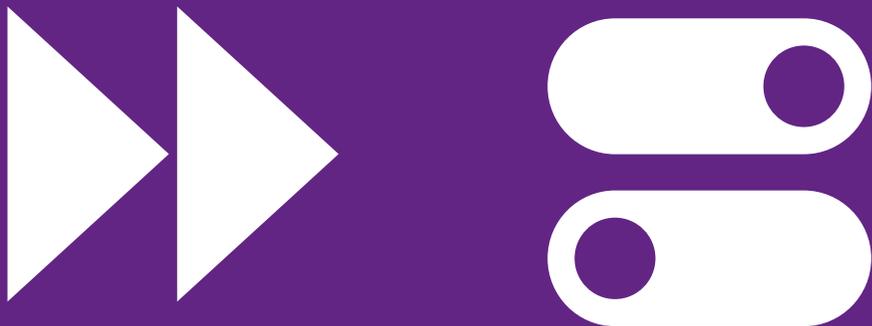


HOW WILL IT WORK?

We have done a large amount of scenario planning and we are confident we can get back to normal.

The latest government guidelines have significantly reduced the need for social distancing and as a result schools will be encouraged to return to a full timetable for all year groups.

This is great news and to the right is a summary of what we know now. This is, of course, conditional on the continued downward trend of the infection rate.



GUIDANCE SUMMARY

Based on the government guidance released on 2 July 2020, this is what we are basing our planning on:

- Primary - the bubble concept will be increased from a maximum of 15 to 30. This means our classes can return as full groups. We may even have the flexibility to create larger bubbles for a whole key stage for example.
- Primary - with specialist teachers - the bubbles will be increased to incorporate 'whole year' bubbles. This will enable us to deliver lessons as per normal with full classes. Specialist teachers will be able to move between classes provided they maintain social distancing.
- Some of the features from this term may need to remain such as staggered timings and one-way systems, as will a focus on hygiene and cleaning. More detail will follow before the start of next term.
- School services such as catering can return to relative normality with some adaptations to mitigate viral spread.
- Track and trace in schools will be a focus.

NEW INITIATIVES FOR NEXT YEAR

As part of our drive to ensure that all students have an uninterrupted educational experience with us, we are giving every student in Year 3 and above their own touchscreen laptop.

Personal devices open the door to combining online study with face-to-face teaching and learning so the best of each is adopted. It can transform many areas of the education process: student agency and digital portfolios (how can I best showcase my learning?); collaboration (how can I develop my interpersonal skills when working with others in class and around the world); assessment and feedback (how can I learn from immediate and meaningful feedback?)

On a more practical level, we need to ensure students are prepared should there be a need for remote learning next academic year. For example, due to a second peak of Coronavirus or the need to self-isolate. In addition, there may be new scenario next year, with teachers self-isolating at home and delivering lessons remotely to students in classrooms. We need students to be on a level playing field and have access to a dedicated, suitable, safe and reliable device that can enrich their learning experience.



NEW INITIATIVES FOR NEXT YEAR

1-2-1 Devices – How it will work?

- The school will fund this in the next school year. The cost will be added to school fees from 2021/22 onwards for the year groups who have these devices.
- It will work out at approximately £4 per week from 2021/22 onwards – we are able to get such a low cost because we have negotiated at scale for all the European schools in the Cognita family.
- This device will be dedicated to schoolwork at home and in the classroom.
- It will be set up with software to make it age appropriate and safe, allowing support to be offered remotely, and ensuring all the required educational applications are included.
- Devices will be insured so lost or broken devices are replaced quickly, and schools will have spares.
- Investment in our infrastructure will be made over the summer and year ahead.
- Teachers and students will have access to training and support materials to help them get the most benefit from the device and how it can contribute to a blended education.
- Devices will be rolled out from September – more details to follow on the exact timings.
- The device we have chosen is a HP X360 because:
 - It's a 2-in-1 Laptop/Tablet; Flip and fold with 360° hinge
 - It's durable –it passed 19 US Military Spec durability and reliability tests
 - It has fast charging – 50% in 30 minutes
 - It has long battery life –10-14 hours for typical usage
 - It has dual web cams (screen cam plus keyboard cam for taking videos in tablet mode)
 - It has a full keyboard
 - It has a 13.3" Touchscreen: students can use their finger or a HP PRO Pen to digitally write



NEW INITIATIVES FOR NEXT YEAR

During the lockdown period we also took action to develop a number of other initiatives which have enabled us to lead the way in online learning and teaching and we intend to build on this next year.



- **Masterclasses** - our teachers have benefited from working with global experts on how to build curriculums that offer a **blended educational experience** and how we can approach **assessment** of students' progress in new ways
- **Partnerships** - with innovative learning platforms that use artificial intelligence to create adaptive and personalised learning paths for students – more 'books' on our shared 'virtual bookshelf'
- **Wellbeing monitoring** – from Year 3 upwards, we will be introducing **AS (Affective Social) Tracking**, an adolescent mental health tracking tool that enables schools to identify pupils' hidden risks early. This equips teachers with targeted action plans to reduce pupil mental health and wellbeing risks and is part of our global commitment to putting mental health and wellbeing at the centre of a well-balanced education.
- **Inspiring Futures programme** – in our senior schools, we have developed for our Year 11 and 13 cohorts to help them get prepared for the future. The programme focused on non-academic character development such as leadership, communication, teamwork, creativity and emotional intelligence. We will continue to develop this working with some expert partners to stretch and challenge all those involved in the programme.
- **Collecting the best content from our global family** - as a Group we are developing an online platform which will host bespoke content curated from our expert educationalists from across our 80 schools. It is early days for this exciting project so more to follow soon.

FAQS



WILL THERE STILL BE A FEE FREEZE FOR NEXT YEAR?

Yes. Given the exceptional circumstances, the economic situation and the value we place on our relationship with our parent cohort there will be no fee increase for the 2020/21 school year.

ARE SPORTS, CLUBS & TRIPS RETURNING?

Yes, where possible. We are keen to return to 'business as usual' as much as possible, and this component of education is important.

Certain non-contact sports are approved, and clubs can generally re-start, although there are some restrictions in the latest guidance that we will work through over the summer. We are also planning to have slightly adapted wrap around care offer of before and after school clubs.

Domestic trips are permitted, but not residential. Overseas trips are not yet permitted. We keep a sharp eye on government advice on these topics as guidance changes frequently. However, at Hendon Prep domestic trips will not resume until Spring 2021. Provisional dates for our residential will be planned into the school annual calendar, just in case guidance changes.

WILL CATERING RETURN TO NORMAL?

Yes. We may need to operate staggered mealtimes, and apply some other operational safeguards, but we intend to return to catering as it was before as far as we can, within the guidelines.

WHAT ABOUT LOCAL LOCKDOWNS?

We are planning in detail what happens if the school needs to temporarily close in the case of an outbreak or localised lockdown. If the call comes we can respond quickly, following a pre-agreed plan.

CAN MY CHILD USE THEIR OWN DEVICE?

We have consciously and purposefully decided against a so-called 'bring your own device' policy. Research indicates that it can have a negative impact because the broad range of devices means teachers spend too much time supporting students to fix issues, a role teachers should not be doing. It also presents a security risk to the school network, will not necessarily be suitable for academic work, and will not always have replacement insurance.

WHAT ABOUT INFECTION CONTROL?

We will continue our robust cleaning regime next year and work closely with our cleaning staff to ensure every possible risk mitigation is taken.

We are also reviewing our infection control procedures over the Summer to allow us to track confirmed or suspected cases and communicate with parents in the smoothest way possible.

HOW WILL CHILDREN CATCH UP?

We are proud that the curriculum has been delivered throughout the Lockdown period; however we will assess the children's progress in September when we return fully to assess any gaps in learning.

WILL CHILDREN BE WEARING UNIFORM AGAIN IN SEPTEMBER?

Yes, the current government advice states that children can resume wearing their normal school uniform. The advice states that uniforms do not need to be cleaned any more often than usual.



RETURN TO SCHOOL SURVEY RESULTS

100% of parents agreed that their child benefitted returning to school

100% of parents agreed that their family benefitted from the return to school

95% of parents agreed that the return to school process was well managed by the school

88% of parents agreed every possible risk mitigation that could have been taken was taken by the school

THANK YOU FOR THE POSITIVE FEEDBACK

- I have been impressed with the school's actions in the reopening and the various new rules that have been established.
- I believe the school have been on the front foot and it's very apparent how committed the teachers and staff are in returning under the new norm. Thank you.
- Huge thanks to all the staff who made this possible. The fact that the children were so happy to be back is testament to the work of your staff.
- Thank you to all the amazing teachers who adapted to online teaching overnight and did a brilliant job. We know this can't have been easy. In times of uncertainty, online lessons via teams gave the children a little bit of normality and they loved seeing their teachers and fellow classmates.

