



HYDESVILLE
TOWER SCHOOL

Back to school

Our plans for the September return



MESSAGE FROM THE HEADMASTER



Dear Parents and Carers,

This has been a four month period unlike anything I have previously experienced in education! It has been an emotional merry-go-round, balancing the competing issues of keeping the school providing its high-quality education from a distance, supervising key worker children, welcoming back various year groups, and doing all this amongst a backdrop of ever-changing government guidance and media speculation. One constant has remained throughout: our unwavering determination to do the very best for the Hydesville family.

I was so delighted that the efforts made to re-open school safely for the selected year groups have been recognised by you. In the recent survey, 96% of you agreed that both you as a family and your child benefited from going back to school, 100% agreed that the return to school process was well-managed by the school, and 100% 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 made as we turn our attention to 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, I believe we are set up to step into the new academic year with confidence and positivity. A busy summer holiday awaits the leadership and operational teams, as we continue to refine arrangements according to weekly changes.

There are more details on our planning overleaf.

One overall reflection I have is the desire for Hydesville to preserve the best that came from this period – how the staff adapted their educational methods, how we embraced a new way of doing things, how the pupils 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 hand washing a part of your daily routine during the holidays.

With that context in mind, I am 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. I wish you all a happy and safe summer and look forward to an exciting new academic year.

As ever, please let me know if you have any questions.

A handwritten signature in black ink, which appears to read 'Mr Warren Honey'. The signature is written in a cursive, flowing style.

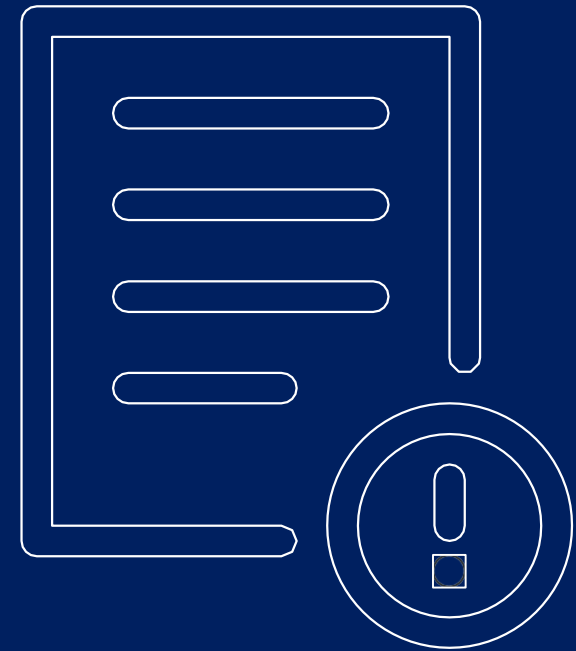
Mr Warren Honey
Headmaster



HYDESVILLE
TOWER 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 pupils who feel that they would benefit from revisiting any subject learning post lockdown.
3. Wellbeing - a focus on both pupils 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.

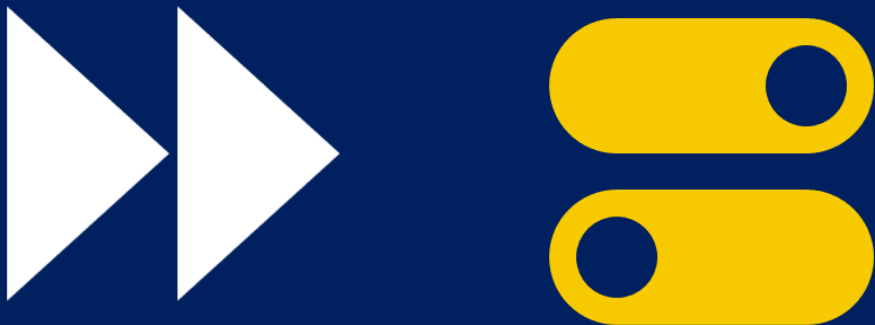


HOW WILL IT WORK?

We have done a large amount of scenario planning and we're 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, this is what we are basing our planning on:

- Bubbles - the bubble concept will be increased from a maximum of 15 to 30. This means our classes can return as full year groups, and we may even have the flexibility to create larger bubbles for a whole key stage for example.
- 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, as will a focus on hygiene and cleaning. More detail will follow before the start of next term.
- School services such as catering and transport 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

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; 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 pupils' progress in new ways
- **Partnerships** - with innovative learning platforms that use artificial intelligence to create adaptive and personalised learning paths for pupils – more 'books' on our shared 'virtual bookshelf'



- **Wellbeing monitoring** – we introduced **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 risks to pupil mental health and wellbeing; it is part of our global commitment to putting mental health and wellbeing at the centre of a well-balanced education.



- **Inspiring Futures programme** - developed for our Year 11 cohort to help them prepare 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's early days for this exciting project so more to follow soon.

FAQS



WILL THERE BE AN ANNUAL INCREASE TO FEES NEXT YEAR?

No. 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 the wrap-around care offer of before and after school clubs.

Domestic trips are permitted, but not residential. Overseas trips are not yet permitted. We will keep a sharp eye on government advice on these topics since guidance changes frequently.

WILL SCHOOL TRANSPORT RESUME?

Yes. We are following government advice closely on this. Risk mitigations we are investigating include the suitability of face coverings (like on public transport), cleaning regimes, seating plans and route reviews.

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.

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.

RETURN TO SCHOOL SURVEY RESULTS

96% of parents agreed that their child benefitted returning to school

96% of parents agreed that their family benefitted from the return to school

100% of parents agreed that the return to school process was well managed by the school

100% of parents agreed every possible risk mitigation that could have been taken was taken by the school

THANK YOU FOR THE POSITIVE FEEDBACK

- *I am very impressed with how the school have managed the return of Year 6. Thank you to all the staff on site for making the process each morning smooth and making the school premises safe for my child.*
- *Staff have been excellent in executing the safety plans which were very well communicated to parents.*
- *My child has absolutely loved being back at school: it has been brilliant throughout this pandemic.*
- *The school has gone above and beyond to support children to return to school. The staff have all worked so hard as a team to make sure our children are safe and happy - they have put our children before themselves.*

