

Year 7

Key Information for September



This document is intended to provide a guide for pupils and parents of Orsett Heath Academy, in light of the Government guidance related to schools and COVID-19.

Opening

We are very much looking forward to seeing our pupils in September and can confirm that we will open on Monday 7th September to all students on a full time basis.

The School Day

When school starts back in September, we will be providing a full curriculum, with all classes running as a normal school day and no reduction in teaching time.

Upon arrival, pupils will head straight to the main entrance when they will be able to sanitise their hands, before going to their Period 1 classes.

Who do you need to know?



Mr Bell
Exec Head



Miss Rawson
Head of School



Miss McGrane
AHT / SENCo

	Mon		Tues - Fri
08:25	Arrival	08:25	Arrival
08:35	Period 1	08:35	Period 1
09:35	Period 2	09:35	Period 2
10:35	Break	10:35	Break
11:00	Tutor Time	11:00	Tutor Time
11:20	Period 3	11:20	Period 3
12:20	Lunch	12:20	Lunch
12:50	Period 4	12:50	Period 4
13:50	Period 5	13:50	Period 5
14:50	Period 6	14:50	Tutor Time
15:20	Finish	15:05	Finish

Your first day is Monday 7th September. You need to arrive at school by 08:25am, and will go directly to Tutor.

We will be on the playground ready to direct you to your first classroom!

New School Rules

All existing school rules remain unchanged. Our behaviour policy has been amended to reflect some of the changes we have had to make in school. For example, if a pupils deliberately refuses to follow hygiene or social distancing arrangements then this will be treated as a very serious breach of our behaviour policy.

The Curriculum

Our belief that all pupils should have access to a full and broad curriculum remains unchanged. Year 7 will follow the same curriculum offer as discussed with you previously.

We will, however, ensure our curriculum planning is informed by an assessment of pupils' starting points and address the gaps in their knowledge and skills, within English and Maths in particular, from the KS3 curriculum.

This strategy is currently in the process of being developed and will be published on our school website before our September start.

Blended Learning

All pupils will be trained to use the Google Classroom platform in September. This will be the main vehicle that we will use to deliver our blended learning model.

Google Classrooms will be used in the following ways:

- To set and manage homework;
- To support classroom learning;
- To extend learning beyond the classroom;
- Used as our main vehicle to deliver lessons should we have to go back into lockdown.

Break & Lunchtime

Food will be available from the canteen at both break times. Breakfast will also be available at 8.15am. Pupils will sanitise their hands prior to leaving their classrooms for breaks and on return from break-time also.

Although the catering staff will be serving a wide range of hot and cold food, this will be of the 'grab and go' variety to ensure that it can be served quickly.

Social distancing will be enforced in the Canteen and Playground.

Parents will receive letters regarding WisePay log-ins before September. These will need to be activated and credit topped-up before students begin in September for them to be able to purchase from the canteen.

For hygiene reasons, pupils will not use a thumb scan for payment of food and drink. Instead, they will provide their name and this will be checked against their photograph by the till operator.

Classroom Arrangements

It is crucial that they have all the correct equipment for the day as we are unable to lend equipment out, due to this being an infection risk.

Staff are able to collect books in for assessment and feedback purposes.

Staff are allocated a two metre space at the front of the room and must stay there. Pupils will only be facing the front of the room and will be socially distanced as much as possible given the limitations of space within the room.

Teaching Assistants are not allowed to circulate the room and sit with pupils as they normally would.

Hygiene

Pupils will sanitise their hands upon arrival, before and after breaks, after using the toilet and at the end of the day. They have hand-wash stations available at all times. Classrooms have lidded bins and pupils will be strongly encouraged to follow the 'catch it, kill it, bin it' advice. Additional cleaning capacity has been put in place and teachers moving to new classrooms will be able to sanitise their work space. Although sanitizer is available at each classroom door, it is advisable for pupils to bring their own to sanitise hands during lessons if necessary.

Outbreak Management

The school will manage any suspected cases of COVID-19 in school by isolating the person in an isolated room until they are able to be collected and tested. Staff involved in their care will wear full PPE. The guidance states that if the test is negative then the person still needs to self-isolate for 14 days because the symptoms could develop into COVID-19 during the remaining days.

If there is a confirmed case of COVID 19 then the school will liaise quickly with Public Health England via the local health protection team and follow their advice. It may be that all students have to self-isolate for 14 days. Parents will be kept informed at all times.

Masks & Uniform

The guidance is clear that no masks are to be worn on the school site. This is because Public Health England advice says that they are not necessary as “pupils and staff are mixing in consistent groups and that misuse of masks may inadvertently increase the risk of transmission.”

However, pupils travelling to school on a bus must wear a mask and remove it before they enter the school site. Normal school uniform will apply from the start of term.

Travelling To/From School

Pupils who travel to school on public transport must sanitise their hands prior to entering the bus and upon exiting. They must also wear a mask which must be removed upon entry to the school.

We would advise students to walk, cycle or travel to/from school by car, where possible.

SEND Support

Support for pupils with Special Educational Needs will need to change as a result of the changes outlined in this key information. The largest change affects in-class support with reduced capacity to work alongside pupils. In order to ensure that SEND pupils continue to make strong progress, the school will be increasing the amount of out of class small group work in socially distanced environments throughout the duration of the changes. All other aspects of our support remain unchanged.

PE Kits

The use of changing rooms presents a transmission risk. Therefore, on the day pupils have PE they are to attend school in their PE kit. Only authorized school PE kit can be worn. Any other items will be considered to be a breach of the school's uniform policy.

Assemblies

We are only allowed to have limited numbers in assemblies. Therefore, we will only hold them if absolutely necessary and with reduced capacity.

Trips & Visits

There will be no trips or visits during the Autumn term. For this reason, the Roperunners trip will be postponed until the Summer Term.

Extra-Curricular

We intend to continue a full extra-curricular programme. However, these will need to have consistent groups and therefore students will be required to sign-up to these clubs. Extra-curricular PE is subject to the same constraints curricular PE is in terms of issues around sharing of equipment and no contact sports.

Access to the School

We are not allowed to give access to any visitor without a prior appointment to enable us to make arrangements for the visit. Therefore, parents are not allowed to come into school reception without an appointment.

School Events

We are not able to host our usual school events in the Autumn term. Therefore, regrettably, our usual Year 7 Tutor Evening in October will be cancelled in its usual format. We will provide further details nearer the time.

Attendance

From September, school attendance is compulsory for all pupils as is normally the case. The school will follow-up all non-attendance in the usual ways.

'Catch-up' Plans & Groupings

We are very aware that our new Year 7 pupils have missed the important last term of their primary school experience.

Without having SATs results to help inform our grouping, Year 7 pupils will initially be placed in broad bands based upon Information received from their primary school. As we get to know the pupils and are able to judge their ability more accurately, we will make adjustments to our groupings.

The English and Maths departments will ensure that they cover additional Year 6 content at the start of the year to ensure that the learning is consolidated and any gaps in knowledge identified and incorporated into future planning.

Pupil Wellbeing and Support

We understand that pupils may be experiencing a variety of emotions in response to the Covid-19 outbreak and are also particularly apprehensive due to the lack of face-to-face induction they have been able to receive. For this reason, we will hold the whole of the first week in September as an Induction Week (Monday 7th—Friday 11th September).

During this week, students will have some usual induction lessons, amongst others on support of mental health, anxiety, worry or stress. Support will also be given to re-adjust students to school and support the rebuilding and creating of friendships and social engagement.

If, however, your child is worried about joining us in September and you think some extra support may be necessary, please contact us on transition@oha.swecet.org and we will be happy to accommodate.

Academic Progress & Reports

From September, all the normal ways the schools track pupil progress will continue as usual. Our assessment schedule will be unaltered and we will be providing parents with their first progress check report at October half-term.



**We look
forward to
welcoming
you on
Monday 7th
September!**