

Thursday 3 September 2020

Dear Parents and Carers

Please find below information pertaining to the return of school this week.

## **1. COVID Guidance**

### **a. Face Coverings**

You may have seen in the press and read about the guidance regarding secondary aged pupils wearing face masks.

Due to the specific and individual needs of the young people attending our provision, City of York Council has specified that the wearing of face coverings in communal areas is optional for young people at Danesgate. Many of our young people will find face mask wearing potentially dysregulating and upsetting, which could then lead to further challenges as they return to school.

During the last few months our staff teams have worn visors or face coverings when working with the young people and in a very high percentage of cases they have been viewed by the pupils positively. We therefore aim to carry on with this should our staff teams wish to do so on an individual level. Alongside our Risk Assessments and heightened sanitation and hygiene processes we believe that we will be able to continue to manage all situations safely – as we have done since March

In terms of transport, City of York Council are advising the use of face masks where children are on public or dedicated home to school transport (taxis) for those children over 11 years old.

### **b. Hygiene**

As during the previous term, we will be requesting our young people regularly sanitise their hands, in line with guidance from the government.

This will be on arrival at school in the morning and at the end of each lesson. As per government guidance we have cleaning staff on duty throughout the school day, ensuring that high frequency areas are kept clean at all times. Please feel free to send your child with their own hand sanitiser if they so desire, however this will also be provided by school. As previously communicated, pupils are grouped into “bubbles”, in order to minimise contact across the school and to ensure minimal movement across the site. Social distancing measures will also remain in place in classrooms.

### **c. Symptoms**

As per the Department for Education guidance, please do not send your child into school if they are displaying any symptoms of Coronavirus or have tested positive in at least the last 10 days. If young people develop symptoms of the virus we are advised to contact home and send the young person home.

## **2. Return to school - 9<sup>th</sup>/10<sup>th</sup>/11<sup>th</sup> September**

A reminder to previous communications about the arrangements for returning to school. The scheduled return to school for students at Danesgate is **Weds 9<sup>th</sup> September 2020**. Due to a lack of any transition over the Summer term for the majority of students, Weds 9<sup>th</sup> September will be a transition day, where carers/parents will be contacted and invited in to Danesgate, in order to discuss the plans for the year ahead. For Primary and Kestrel students, of whom the majority have been at school during the Summer term, this will be their first day back at school.

At Danesgate, in line with other Specialist Providers in the city, we are implementing a staggered start to the year. In line with government guidance published on Thursday 3<sup>rd</sup> July 2020, Danesgate has created three “bubbles”. A Key Worker will be in touch with further details on Monday 7<sup>th</sup> September/Tuesday 8<sup>th</sup> September to inform you of your child’s “Bubble” and start date/time & transport arrangements (where applicable) and to arrange an appointment to discuss plans on Weds 9<sup>th</sup> September where appropriate and required.

Staggered Start arrangements:

Date	Event
Wednesday September 9 <sup>th</sup>	<b>Bubble 1</b> - Primary and Kestrel Groups return to school
Thursday September 10 <sup>th</sup>	<b>Bubble 2</b> – TalkAbout Groups, Y11R Group return to school
Friday September 11 <sup>th</sup>	<b>Bubble 3</b> – Bridge, Groups, STEPS groups, Nurture Groups return to school

We look forward to welcoming your child back to school at Danesgate next week.

Sincerely



Mark Richardson, Head Teacher, Danesgate Community.