



Thriftwood

School and College

website: www.thriftwoodschooll.com

Dear Students, Parents and Carers

Welcome to the start of the preparations for the September return. I hope you are well and have had the time to recharge your batteries.

We are approaching a brand new start to the academic year where we look forward to a challenging and in many ways exciting move towards adulthood for our young folk. The return for all students has been wrapped up in many difficulties which has generated much thought and action at Thriftwood College. We know you understand how important returning to College is for our students and we appreciate all of your support.

The following information is very important and will need to be read.

Start dates

Key Stage 4 (Y10/11) will be starting on Wednesday 2nd September

Key Stage 5 (Y12/13/14) will begin on Thursday 3rd September

After studying the Government Guidance on Covid-19 through the summer and risk assessing the current circumstances we have kept to the idea of a system based on Key Stage bubbles as the best way forward i.e. KS4 (Yr10/11) in one bubble and KS5 (Yr12/13/14) in another bubble. Where possible, this will mean we will try and keep the Key Stages apart. We will have strict hygiene regimes throughout the day and will socially distance where possible. However, all of this will be governed by the geography of the building and the student's levels of understanding. We continue to have procedures in place to work with the local health protection team, if there are any health scares, and we are committed to the track and trace system.

Thriftwood has a new taxi company called Kinect Services who will provide transport this year. Due to the age of our students at the college, we have decided to arrange for them to have their temperatures taken before getting in the taxis. If a student is over 37.8 degrees they will not be allowed to get in the taxi and will only return to College after 48 hours as long as Covid-19 like symptoms do not persist. We feel this will give another layer of protection to students, families and staff as well as give confidence to the returning process.

There has been a lot of discussion about the wearing of face masks for over 12's and it is looking likely that we need to be prepared for an eventuality that may require our students to wear a mask when they are in transition and moving around the building. Therefore, we are asking for all students at the college to bring in a mask, or more than one, which is to be kept in a small sealed pocket such as an empty pencil case or zip up plastic wallet each day (it needs to be small so it can be stored in their tray). This means we are ready for any circumstance where students may need to wear one. We will not require students to wear masks in lessons. However, we will be flexible with either the wearing or non-wearing of masks, depending on individual needs.

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We would like to remind you that at the moment our kitchen will only be able to provide a cold food option to students who are eligible for Free School meals. All other students will need to bring in a packed lunch. Parents who have Key Stage 5 children who independently buy their lunch will need to let us know if they do not want their child to do so. They will also have to make sure they have a packed lunch to bring in. Those who have permission will also have to fully respect the exit and entry system at Thriftwood College and will need to have a face mask so as they can enter any shop.

We would like to thank everyone who responded to our parent survey in July and have made careful consideration of all the comments made. As a consequence, we have made sure that they are reflected in the “Covid-19: Wider- opening of Schools and Colleges - Risk Assessment and Action Plan” which is available on the Thriftwood Website.

This letter comes with two attachments. The first is a revised list of reminders and the second shows a model of the College’s daily structure. **Please read them so that the students can be prepared and ready.** Thriftwood appreciates the anxiety generated by the present situation but we know that raising these key issues will lead to a smoother return next week.

Finally I would like to congratulate all of those students who have passed their exams. What a fabulous achievement! It is a testament to the students and the staff who have worked tirelessly to make sure that success was assured.

We really look forward to our students returning and seeing the college come back to life!

All good wishes

Jon Hutchings
Acting Head of Thriftwood College