



Seahaven Academy

The best in everyone™

Part of United Learning

25th August 2020

Dear Parents/Carers

I hope you have all been able to advantage of the beautiful weather we had earlier in the summer holidays and have been keeping safe and well over the last few weeks. With the exams now behind us, we are continuing our planning for the welcoming back of all students in September. I wrote at the end of the summer term that we would contact you on Friday 28th August with confirmed details of how we are going to manage the reopening of the school. This is still the case, and we will then have a presentation by members of staff to follow on Thursday 3rd September once you have read through all the material, and the chance to send in any further questions you have. However, since the media are full of speculation and discussion at the moment around different arrangements for September, I thought I would send you a reminder of the draft arrangements we shared with you in July.

As you know, we have had the added complication of the building of the extension to the school being a long way behind schedule because of the impact of the pandemic and the initial lockdown in the spring. We are confident that we will take possession of the new spaces – which we need even more than before with the added requirements for creating year group ‘bubbles’ in schools - just before we reopen. It will be extremely last minute and as you can imagine, it has added an extra layer of complications and stress to all our plans. However, unless there is a significant issue beyond our control before the end of August, we will open as planned:

- Monday 7th September – year 7 only
- Tuesday 8th September – years 7, 10 and 11 only
- Wednesday 9th September – all year groups

All students will need to be in school for 8am. Years 7, 8 and 9 will use the Southdown Road entrance and years 10 and 11 will use the Haven Way entrance. Staff will be on hand to manage students as they come in, so they know exactly what to do and where to go. We are really looking forward to seeing them!

Draft arrangement for the full re-opening of Seahaven Academy

The current government guidance for the full opening of schools in September is here:

<https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/actions-for-schools-during-the-coronavirus-outbreak/guidance-for-full-opening-schools>.

There may be further changes to this guidance before school starts which we will then add into our plans and adjust risk assessments as needed.



Principal Sarah Pringle

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Seahaven Academy
Southdown Road
Newhaven
BN9 9JL

t 01273 517601

f 01273 611182

e office@seahavenacademy.org.uk

www.seahavenacademy.org.uk

We have completed our draft plans and are now updating the risk assessments we have been following over the past few months of school closure. We are hoping to be able to return to many of our 'normal' routines in September and aim to offer our usual Seahaven provision as soon as possible after that, but we are having to make considerable changes to the school experience for at least the start of the new academic year in September – as all schools will have to – in order to comply with current government guidance.

The underpinning guidelines for our planning for September include:

- All staff and students, except the clinically most vulnerable will be expected to return to school. Normal absence procedures will be followed.
- The school will provide a broad and balanced curriculum, with as little disruption to the subjects delivered as possible although lesson sequences may need to be changed with.
- Pastoral Leaders and Teaching Assistants will continue to work with assigned year groups.
- Full uniform and equipment will be expected. The school will support any families struggling to get the right uniform or equipment for September (please see equipment list attached).
- The core school day will be as near to the usual timetable as possible (8.00am – 2.20pm) based on current bus services, but there will be no additional activities before or after school at the start of the Term 1.
- Students in each year group will be kept separate from other year groups (the 'bubble' model) to minimize contact with others. Movement around the school will be restricted.
- There will be staggered break and lunchtimes. Food options may be slightly limited at the start of Term 1.
- Each year group will have a zoned area of the school including classrooms, ICT facilities, toilets and indoor/ outdoor spaces for break and lunchtime.
- Staff will maintain 2m distance from each other and from students where possible.
- All members of the school community will follow strict hygiene expectations and follow government guidelines for treatment of suspected Covid-19 and Test and Trace systems.

What will be different?

a. Students (staff and visitors) will not be able to come into school if they display any symptoms of Covid-19. They will be asked to engage with the Test and Trace system and self-isolate if required. Students (staff and visitors) displaying Covid-19 symptoms in school will be subject to national public health England endorsed procedures including students being isolated from the rest of the school until they can be collected from school and family engagement with the Test and Trace system.

b. Students in different year groups will have separate entrances into the school: year 10 and 11 via Haven Way and year's 7, 8 and 9 via Southdown Road. They will initially spend the majority of their time in one area. Staff will move around the school to different classes to avoid students having to move around. This is because although we have fantastic facilities and great, modern buildings, the corridors are all very narrow and do not allow different groups to pass at distance. Where necessary (especially in KS4), students will still use specialist rooms (e.g. science, DT, art, music).

c. Students will have staggered break and lunch times so that they do not mix with other year groups. Food will still be available but will initially be limited to mostly 'grab and go' items so that the canteen staff can manage several sittings during the day in different parts of the school. We are planning to provide breakfast snacks for those who need it in the year group areas.

d. The school day will be limited to core hours at the start of the year with no before and after school provision including clubs and homework facilities. We will aim to re-start these provisions as soon as possible after the first few weeks.

e. Students will need to have their own equipment – including full drinks bottles - so that they are not sharing. A list is attached. We will be able to provide school-issued equipment for anyone unable to do this.

f. School events during term 1 will be virtual/online activities, including Open Evening and Key Stage information evenings.

What will be the same?

a. Buses/ start and finish times: as far as we are aware at the moment, students will be able to catch their normal buses and school will start and finish at approximately the same time: 8.00am – 2.20pm.

b. Attendance: all students will be expected to attend school full time in September unless there is a medical issue which prevents them from doing so. (Further details will follow at the end of the week regarding attendance).

c. Uniform: please see attached list for reminders. Please make sure false/gel nails and nail varnish is removed and hair is returned to natural colours before the start of term. We know there will have been plenty of creativity over the last few months so please make time to get return to usual expectations! Let us know when the office opens if you have any problems sourcing uniform.

d. Teaching and Learning: we will be starting the year at the point we would normally begin with each year group. We will have a number of programmes in place to support catch-up where we feel that students have missed out on their learning during the closure period. Homework/independent learning will be a key feature of learning in the new academic year so it will be very important for students to keep up with their studies at home as well as in school. We will re-open the after-school homework clubs as soon as we can after the start of term 1.

e. SEND: it has been great to keep regular communication with our SEND parents throughout partial school closure and the Key Link Workers are looking forward to building on this next year. The Learning Support Department are busy planning how we support our SEND students next term and we are delighted that many of our interventions will continue. More details to follow in term 1.

f. Pastoral Support: students will continue to receive excellent support from the year group Pastoral Leaders who will continue to be the first point of contact for parents. Students will have regular contact with tutors and other members of staff and will be signposted to support where needed.

Although there are still many uncertainties surrounding the full return to school in September, one thing we can be fairly certain about is that young people are generally very creative, resilient and positive, and

often surprise us with how much change they can manage without any complaints or upset. They tend to lead the way for staff who are often not so keen on change or so quick to get used to new routines! Next term will be a new challenge for us all and we will have a range of interventions available for students who need it. We know that the vast majority of students will benefit greatly from a return to routines and structure, but there will be plenty of support for those who find this more difficult.

g. Behaviour: we will still have the same, very high, expectations in terms of behaviour. The support systems will be slightly different with students working separately in year groups and we will explain this to students when they arrive back in school, but the aim of 'disruption free learning' will remain the same. Students who are referred to the Independent Learning Room (ILR, previously APSC) will work in the same space with students from other year groups but will have 2m distance between desks. Detentions will run after school in year groups bases. Our hope is that we will not need to use either system very much in the new academic year.

...and a lot of other aspects of our normal Seahaven school life. Those things which do not return to normal straight away in September will do so as soon as we are able to arrange it.

Preparations for further school closures

We hope that we will not be in a position to need to action further school closure due to the Coronavirus/ Covid-19, but this cannot be guaranteed. If the school had to close again as part of a national or local lockdown, we would return to online learning, picking up from where the students had reached in their studies. With the support of the United Learning, the Oak Academy and our own Teams teaching and use of ShowMyHomework, we feel very confident that we will once again be able to teach our students whilst they are learning from home.

Please look out for further updates at the end of the week.

Yours sincerely

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'S. Pringle', written in a cursive style.

Sarah Pringle
Headteacher