

Return to Trinity School: Frequently Asked Questions

1. Why are students sent outside at break?

In order to keep students separate in their bubbles we have split each yard in half, giving a space for four year groups (7-10) As there are 270 students in each year group, outside space, with fresh air and room to mix safely in a bubble, is safest. Students should bring a coat/waterproof to wear outside. Four of the outside spaces have shelters for students to sit underneath. Students in year 11 do not have an outside space at break but have a much larger indoor area than other year groups and we have opened up 'Creighton Café' for them to use at break. At lunchtime, all students have access to a dining area and an outside space, so they can spread out even further. We have contingency plans for wet breaks, but these areas are smaller, so outside is safest, even in light drizzle!

2. It is cold during some lessons, can my child keep their coat on?

We ask students to remove coats inside the building as it helps us to quickly identify students by the flash on their jumpers. This is more important than ever when students have to stay apart from other bubbles. We feel that students learn best when not wearing outdoor clothes, just as you would not expect them to wear a coat at home whilst doing homework. If students are cold, then they should wear extra layers underneath, such as a plain white t-shirt under their shirt, or a light coloured sports 'skin.' Good ventilation is essential to reduce the spread of the virus. We have also increased the school thermostat during the colder weather.

3. Why can't students come into school before 8:30am?

We do not have the staff to supervise students who arrive early and we cannot therefore guarantee that students will stay in their areas whilst unsupervised. Students gather in their year group bubbles in smaller friendship groups and entry is now speedy.

4. What should my child do if they arrive late and their bubble have entered the school?

If students are late, they should go to the reception airlock closest to their entrance. (Year 8,9,11 should go to student entrance, Year 7 and 10 to main reception. Sixth form have access with their cards.) Students should report to reception staff who will contact the year team for collection. Students who are regularly late may be held back at the end of the day.

5. What will happen if a Covid behaviour rule is broken?

The majority of students have understood the need for new rules and are cooperating well. Students are still getting used to routines and it is inevitable that students will forget and make mistakes at first. We will contact you where mistakes are made and will follow up using our behaviour policy if we believe that students are putting others at risk deliberately. This could be in the form of a 'hold back' where students do a detention in their year area and have a conversation with pastoral staff about improving their behaviour. This could be until 3:15pm each day, but we will contact you if it is a longer detention due to more problematic behaviour. For serious breaches of the behaviour policy, where others are put at risk, fixed term exclusion may be an appropriate sanction.

6. When can my child go to the toilet?

Each year group has their own toilet for break and lunch. Year 9 are using a set of staff toilets and we have created some new toilets in the year 10 area. If toilets are used by more than one bubble over the lunch period, then they are cleaned between lunches. In order to avoid students being out of lessons unsupervised, we ask that students go to the toilet at break and lunch. We have been checking this and, although there is some queuing, there is ample time for students to access facilities. If your child has a medical condition, and we do not know already, please contact the year team. All other toilet visits are supervised but we expect that students should be in lessons learning and so access toilets at break and lunch.

7. My child has reported that they are uncomfortable in class, what can be done about this?

Some classrooms are in specialist rooms (Science, Art, DT.) We do not have the budget or storage space to swap the specialist furniture in these rooms. We have asked staff to allow students a five minute stretch at lesson changeover and, if sensible, they can bring a small cushion for their seat in these rooms. If there is a particular problem, please let us know.

8. Why can't I come into school?

Pastoral staff need to remain in the year group bubble to support students and to make sure that someone is on hand to supervise at all times. These staff are also liaising with medical teams should a student fall ill and need to be checked. Teaching staff are not in their typical areas but are moving across the school, travelling quite a distance each day. We also need to limit the number of adults in the building for their safety and the safety of staff and students. Our cleaning staff are fully deployed and we do not have the capacity at the present time for the extra cleaning needed after each parental meeting. We will be using technology for meetings and will review this in due course. We are able to meet parents via Teams, too.

9. I've heard that some bubbles cross over from time to time. Is this true?

At break and lunchtime students move back and forward to their areas and some classrooms are in the vicinity of students moving to break and lunch. Movement is coordinated so that students do not meet. There are some students returning from specialist lessons that may have to wait until a bubble has passed before moving back to their year group area. Staff are directing traffic as required. We have been reassured by public health that passing another student in the corridor is not high risk.

10. Why must my child remain in the same seat for all lessons?

For safety reasons, students must not move around the room. By keeping a constant seating plan, in the event of a case of Covid-19, only the students in closest contact would be sent home. If we were to operate a more fluid seating plan, then more students would miss out on learning if they are required to self-isolate. The seating plan, therefore, must remain fixed. In lessons, students are learning, not socialising, so it should not matter who they are sitting with. Both pastoral staff and teaching staff have been heavily involved in creating seating plans based on how well some students work together. We review the plan each half term, when we know students better and when we have a 9 day window to change things.

***Note – there is separate information sheet about the use of face coverings.**