



FITZHARRYS SCHOOL

Fitzharrys School
Northcourt Road
Abingdon
OX14 1NP

Tel: 01235 520698
Email: office.4127@fitzharrys.oxon.sch.uk

Head of School: Mr W Speke, BA (Hons)

Dear parents and carers,

Fitzharrys is looking forward to welcoming all our students back into school for the start of the new academic year. Over the summer we have been planning and preparing the school for full re-opening. We know that returning to school poses challenges for all of the Fitzharrys community, but we are confident that the measures we have put in place will enable the school to teach our students in a safe, supportive and rigorous way.

This letter is to outline how Fitzharrys is adapting to the government guidance in light of the Covid-19 pandemic. There is a lot of detail here, but this is important so that everyone in the school community has awareness of, and confidence in, our renewed expectations. There are clear sections below which set out both the changes we have made to normal routines, and the expectations we have of students and parents. Please do read these sections carefully. If there are any questions please let us know, we will be happy to clarify any queries.

The Start of term

As normal we will stagger our opening of school for all students at the start of September. This is more important than ever this year, as we need to allow each year group time to adjust and integrate back into the school community. Therefore, we will be welcoming back year groups from the following dates:

Day/Date	Year groups returning in school
Thursday 3 rd September	Year 7 and Year 10
Friday 4 th September	Year 8 and Year 11
Monday 7 th September	Year 9
	JMF6 students are notified of their return date separately.

The school day will start and finish at the normal time, with students on site by 8.37am. To reduce congestion at the end of the school day, years 8 and 10 will finish at 3.10pm (2.55pm on a Wednesday).

Entry and Exit into school

Students will all enter via the main gate at the front of school as normal. Students should not congregate outside the front of school. They should make their way to their tutor room or year group zone as soon as they get to school. As they make their way into school all students should get to their area by walking to the left before reception, walking around the back of the hall and canteen and then onto their zone or tutor room. As they enter their bubble or zone, students should sanitise their hands (dispensers will be provided located at the entry to each bubble).



Fitzharrys School is part of the Abingdon Learning Trust.
Abingdon Learning Trust is an exempt charity and a company limited by guarantee.
Registered in England and Wales. Company No. 7931886
Registered Office: Rush Common School, Hendred Way, Abingdon. OX14 2AW



FITZHARRYS SCHOOL

Fitzharrys School
Northcourt Road
Abingdon
OX14 1NP

Tel: 01235 520698
Email: office.4127@fitzharrys.oxon.sch.uk

Head of School: Mr W Speke, BA (Hons)

At the end of the day students should leave going around the outside of the building via the bike sheds. Students will not be allowed to leave through either main reception or what is known as 'student reception' situated by the KS3 toilets. As they leave school students should not congregate at the front of school and should head straight home. As ever, if you are picking up your child, please do not come up the drive, or park in the bus lane at the front of school.

At both the start and the end of the day students will be supervised by members of staff. This will help students leave safely and at a safe distance from each other.

Locations of lessons and movement between lessons

When in school students will be working in year group 'bubbles'. The idea of these bubbles is to prevent students mixing with those in other year groups, thus minimising the risk of transmission if there are cases of Covid-19 in school.

We have organised the bubbles so that for the majority of their lessons each year group will stay in a designated area of the school. Students will not move between year group bubbles. Each year group will stay in these areas for their English, Maths, Humanities and Languages lessons. Their teachers will move to them for these lessons. The bubbles are in the following locations:

Year group	Bubble location
7	Maths classrooms off the Maths stairwell in Main block
8	Humanities classrooms off the Humanities stairwell in Main block
9	Upstairs classrooms in the Science block
10	English classrooms in East block
11	MFL classrooms in East block and M3 (textiles room) in Main block
JMF6	South block and the library

For Science, Art, PE, Music, Drama and Technology lessons students will have their lessons in the specialist classrooms and locations. SEN and CIRB support will also occur in their usual locations. This will enable subjects to still carry out practical activities where possible. Students will move to these lessons following a clearly outlined route around the school. This will be explained to students on their first day in school. A map will be shown to students, and signs will remind students of the routes they can and cannot take around school.

Each of these more practical subjects will have clear cleaning routines between lessons and will ensure that equipment is not passed between bubbles unless it has been cleaned.



Fitzharrys School is part of the Abingdon Learning Trust.
Abingdon Learning Trust is an exempt charity and a company limited by guarantee.
Registered in England and Wales. Company No. 7931886
Registered Office: Rush Common School, Hendred Way, Abingdon. OX14 2AW



FITZHARRYS SCHOOL

Fitzharrys School
Northcourt Road
Abingdon
OX14 1NP

Tel: 01235 520698
Email: office.4127@fitzharrys.oxon.sch.uk

Head of School: Mr W Speke, BA (Hons)

Hygiene and social distancing

As students move between areas of the school, they will be expected to sanitise their hands. Hand sanitiser will be located at each bubble/subject entry point to support students with this. Students are encouraged to bring their own sanitiser with them into school. It is essential that this becomes part of their routine.

We also expect students to adhere to social distancing as much as possible. We know this will be harder in year group bubbles, especially as students will be sitting next to each other in most lessons. However, for transition points, breaks, lunchtimes and when interacting with staff, it is vital that we are aware of the need to keep a safe distance from those outside your bubble.

'Catch it, bin it, kill it' will be key when in school. Bins will be regularly emptied, and students should use a tissue to catch any sneeze or cough, if not the crook of their arm is the next best thing. Supplying your child with tissues to take into school would help support this.

Key transition points will be cleaned throughout the day. Doors will be propped open, windows kept open for ventilation, and surfaces regularly cleaned. As per the government guidance masks will not be required for students when in school.

Students will use specified toilets and must be rigorous about washing their hands afterwards. Year 7 and 8 students will use the key stage 3 toilets by student reception. Year 9, 10 and 11 students will use the key stage 4 toilets in main block (boys) and by drama (girls). The sixth form will use the toilets in South block by the common room. While SEN/CIRB students will use the toilets in West Block.

Illness and testing

If a student is feeling unwell and has symptoms of Covid-19 they should not come into school. Parents should notify the school and a test should be applied for <https://www.gov.uk/apply-coronavirus-test>

If the result is negative, the student should come back into school. If it is positive, the student should isolate for the appropriate period as outlined by the government. In either case, parents and carers should notify the school as soon as the test result is known.

If a student feels unwell in the school day, they should let their teacher know. They will be asked to go to reception where they will be assessed by a first aider. If they have Covid-19 symptoms then parents/carers will be contacted and expected to come and pick them up from



Fitzharrys School is part of the Abingdon Learning Trust.
Abingdon Learning Trust is an exempt charity and a company limited by guarantee.
Registered in England and Wales. Company No. 7931886
Registered Office: Rush Common School, Hendred Way, Abingdon. OX14 2AW



FITZHARRYS SCHOOL

Fitzharrys School
Northcourt Road
Abingdon
OX14 1NP

Tel: 01235 520698
Email: office.4127@fitzharrys.oxon.sch.uk

Head of School: Mr W Speke, BA (Hons)

school immediately. These students will be kept away from others while they wait, and the area they have waited in will be cleaned after they have left.

If there is a case in school, we will contact Public Health England who will let us know the next steps. These will be clearly communicated to parents as appropriate.

Uniform and equipment

Students are expected to attend in full school uniform. This will be the traditional uniform from the start of term 1 (no summer polo shirts). No hoodies are permitted, bags should be appropriate for school use and shoes should be of the type outlined in the school's uniform policy (please visit the school website for more details).

In terms of equipment for lessons, this year it is more important than ever that every child comes to school with all the equipment they need. We are discouraging the sharing of standard equipment. Therefore, we would expect every student to come to school with their planner, pencil case including writing pens (black, blue and green), pencil, ruler, rubber, pencil sharpener, coloured pencils, calculator, glue stick, highlighter and whiteboard pen. Tutors will regularly check all of this equipment is being carried by every student. They will also be encouraging students to bring tissues and hand sanitiser.

In lessons students will be using books as normal. Teachers will aim to set electronically submitted homework where possible. Textbooks and teaching resources will be kept in bubbles and not transferred between them. Any specialist equipment, including computer equipment, will be cleaned between lessons to enable other students to use it.

Unfortunately, due to the location of bubbles the use of student lockers will be suspended until circumstances change. Students will also not be able to leave exercise books in classrooms. Therefore, students will need to take books and equipment home each day. Students will need to carefully prepare for each day in school by packing their bags in advance. Organisation and planning for each school day will be especially important in these circumstances, and some students may need support with this.

Behaviour expectations

Our high expectations have not changed for our students. We want them to be engaged in their learning and to work hard in lessons, so that they can achieve their very best. Our expectations can be found in the updated behaviour policy, which will be on the website shortly.



Fitzharrys School is part of the Abingdon Learning Trust.
Abingdon Learning Trust is an exempt charity and a company limited by guarantee.
Registered in England and Wales. Company No. 7931886
Registered Office: Rush Common School, Hendred Way, Abingdon. OX14 2AW



FITZHARRYS SCHOOL

Fitzharrys School
Northcourt Road
Abingdon
OX14 1NP

Tel: 01235 520698
Email: office.4127@fitzharrys.oxon.sch.uk

Head of School: Mr W Speke, BA (Hons)

We expect students to be in the right place, at the right time, doing the right thing. This has not changed, yet what is 'right' has been altered by the pandemic and how we interact with each other. I know that all of our community will be considerate of each other, but please do emphasise the need for this with your child.

Breaks and lunchtimes

To give students the space and opportunity they need at break and lunch, we have divided the outside space up into different zones which students can use. Students must stay in their year group zone and not mix with other bubbles.

The same applies for food serving. We have reopened the hatch in student reception to give year 7 a location to purchase food. For the rest of the school we will split lunch into 2 sittings. Year 8 and 9 will have a sitting each in the lower school canteen, while the upper school canteen area will host sittings for year 10 and 11. The zones for students to use will be as follows:

Year Group	Food serving	Outdoor space	Wet indoor space
7	Student reception	Memorial garden, centre court, field zone	Library and tutor rooms
8	Lower School canteen	Gazebos, courts, field	Tutor rooms
9	Lower School canteen	Gym/Hall courtyard, courts, field	Canteen
10	Upper school canteen	East courtyard, all weather pitch, field	Tutor rooms
11	Upper school canteen	Outside science, all weather pitch, field	Tutor rooms
12&13	Upper school canteen	Grass behind south block	Common room

Visiting the school

All visits to the school should be by appointment only and should only occur if contact by other means is not possible. This will apply to anyone visiting the school, including parents. As ever, we will ensure communication is clear and we are here to help and support.

Curriculum

Our staff have carefully planned what will be taught this year and have adapted the curriculum to ensure that students are supported in covering any content missed. Students will be returning to calm, carefully planned lessons that build their confidence and support them as they come back into school after 5 months. Our pastoral support will be there to assist students who may find things tricky using a range of strategies and support.



Fitzharrys School is part of the Abingdon Learning Trust.
Abingdon Learning Trust is an exempt charity and a company limited by guarantee.
Registered in England and Wales. Company No. 7931886
Registered Office: Rush Common School, Hendred Way, Abingdon. OX14 2AW



FITZHARRYS SCHOOL

Fitzharrys School
Northcourt Road
Abingdon
OX14 1NP

Tel: 01235 520698
Email: office.4127@fitzharrys.oxon.sch.uk

Head of School: Mr W Speke, BA (Hons)

I hope that the above outline gives you and your child a clear understanding of how things will work when we return to school. To support this, we will publish a risk assessment on the school website to outline the changes made above in a table form. We will send you a link to this in the next week or so. In the meantime, if there are specific questions about reopening then please contact the school via the office email address.

While there are several adjustments that staff and students will have to make, we know that the strength of the Fitzharrys community will mean that everyone will adapt quickly to the new normal in school. Thank you in advance for your support in ensuring Fitzharrys starts back in a confident, calm, and assured way.

Yours sincerely,

Will Speke
Head of School



Fitzharrys School is part of the Abingdon Learning Trust.
Abingdon Learning Trust is an exempt charity and a company limited by guarantee.
Registered in England and Wales. Company No. 7931886
Registered Office: Rush Common School, Hendred Way, Abingdon. OX14 2AW