



RANGE HIGH SCHOOL

Challenge • Support • Flourish

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Head Teacher: Mr M. McGarry MA, PGCE, NPQH

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Dear Parent/Carer,

I hope you are well and have managed to enjoy the summer break with your family. As we approach the beginning of the new academic year, I wanted to write to remind you of some of the points that I laid out in my end-of-term letter last month relating to school re-opening. I appreciate that this may be an anxious time for some but I do hope that by all of us working together as a community, we can ensure that Range re-opens to everyone in a safe and controlled manner to allow us to get your child's education back on track as quickly as possible.

Our school risk assessment and re-opening plan have been formulated with Compliance Education, our external HS Educational Consultants. They have been on site several times and have worked with us to ensure that we have considered all aspects of the government's 'system of controls' in relation to schools re-opening. Please note that the first important point is that if your son/daughter is displaying any symptoms or they are in close contact with anyone who is displaying symptoms, they should not come into school. Instead a test should be sought with your GP or by ringing NHS 111. I would ask that parents stay in close touch with us in this instance. The re-opening plan can be accessed on our website or by following this link:

<http://www.range.sefton.sch.uk/wp-content/uploads/2020/07/Range-High-School-Reopening-Plan-September-2020.pdf>

Essentially the school will operate in a series of 'zones' for each year group. The zone map of the school can be accessed on the website. For the first weeks of term, your child will be educated in a certain area of the school and will stay within that zone throughout the day. School will therefore feel different for everyone and this should be expected. The idea is to maintain the integrity of a year group so as they have little or no contact with other year groups. As per government guidance this should reduce the risk of any transmission of infection in schools. The importance of good hand hygiene as well as the 'catch it, kill it, bin it' concept is vital. All of the classrooms in school have had new bins and hand sanitiser is widely available in each room and around the site. Please emphasise the importance to your son/daughter of working with us on reducing the risk for everyone's safety. The importance of good hand hygiene cannot be overstated.

High standards of behaviour and personal organisation are expected at all times here at Range but both of these have never been more important than at this difficult and challenging time. Our behaviour policy has been updated to reflect the importance of respect, tolerance and following very strict guidelines around personal and others' safety. Again, your support and understanding are very much appreciated. It will help your child enormously if they are fully equipped for the lessons each day on their timetable. Mr Dolly has issued guidance already on the concept of 'Range Ready' and he will be in touch in the next few days with a final reminder.

As laid out in my last letter, we will have a staged start to the new academic year. This will allow us to spend the necessary time with each year group to explain how school will operate, to ascertain how everyone is following this period of closure and to allow the students to get a feel for what their timetable will be like. The week beginning 1st September will be structured as follows:

- Tuesday 1st September – Staff INSET Day
- Wednesday 2nd September – Y7 and Y12 only (Y12- 9.30am start)
- Thursday 3rd September – Y8, Y9 and Y10 only
- Friday 4th September – Y11 and Y13 only (Y13- 9.30am start)

School will be fully re-opened as from the 7th September with all students operating in their zones from then. In order to help with the general day to day running of the school in this way, I have temporarily re-structured our pastoral system from our traditional ‘House’ style to a Year Group system. So again for the first half-term the following colleagues will be your first port of call for any pastoral issues that may arise:

Year Group	Pastoral Lead
7	Mr Rudd and Mrs Ashworth
8	Mr Jump and Mrs Lawrence
9	Mr Cropper and Mrs Plumbley
10	Miss Seagraves and Miss Wilson
11	Mr Cregeen and Mrs McGuire
Sixth Form	Dr Ainsworth

For any overall pastoral or safeguarding matters, please contact the above member of staff in the first instance. Please note that we have updated a ‘temporary’ Fire Risk procedure as part of our Evacuation Policy. This will be on our school website and we will go through this with everyone and aim to do a drill in the first full week of term.

I have sent out a separate letter last week in relation to school and public transport. Again if you can avoid using it at this time, please do so. Otherwise, please follow the guidelines that I referred to in my letter.

Catering will be challenging due to the restrictions placed on us. First of all you may want to consider packed lunch as an easier alternative at this time. There will be very limited snacks available at break time in the zone areas but we will only trial this to see how it operates. Again, it may be an idea for your son/daughter to bring a morning snack with them. Y7 will have an early lunch and will have access to the dining room. Y11 and Y10 will have separate sittings in the dining room at lunchtime. A lunch trolley will be available in the Y8/Y9 zones and the Sixth Form will have access to their ‘snack shack’ as normal. However, as previously indicated, the lunch offering in all settings will be limited to ‘grab-a-bag’ style food. The same offer will be made to all regardless of the zone or sitting. We are currently working with our caterers who are hoping to roll out an ‘app’ to allow pre-ordering and payment. However, Parent Pay is still fully functional and our preferred way of paying for anything through school. If you have any questions in relation to your Parent Pay account, please contact Mrs Gordon at school. Also please note that we will now be operating the new school day as was the plan following the Easter holidays last year. The times of the school day are as follows:

08:40	Go to Tutor	11:30	Start of Period 3
08:50	Start of Tutor	12:30	End of Period 3/start of lunch
09:05	Move to Period 1	13:10	End of lunch
09:10	Start of Period 1	13:15	Start of Period 4
10:10	End of Period 1	14:15	End of Period 4
10:15	Start of Period 2	14:20	Start of Period 5
11:15	End of Period 2/start of break	15:20	End of Period 5
11:25	End of break		

Please note that school will finish as normal on Friday, week 2 at 14.15 as normal.

On arrival, from 8.30am onwards, students will be told to go to their particular zone. Later this week, Mrs Phillips will send out a message via ParentMail advising each year group of their form allocations and room bases in their zone. Mrs Ashworth will be in touch separately with our new Y7 cohort. For the first half-term we will operate a very slightly staggered finish to the day. This will be to allow us ensure that the whole school population is not leaving the site at the same time. This will be for different year groups on different days and will not begin until 3.05pm at the earliest. Again, we will monitor this in the early weeks of term and make necessary adjustments as required. This will be on a rolling system to ensure that the same year group are not leaving the same lesson slightly early each week.

The wearing of uniform will be required at all times but for the first few weeks, students should only bring their training shoes on the day they have PE not their full kit. These lessons will be largely conducted near to the zone area for each year group. Changing rooms will not be accessible. We are considering allowing students to wear their PE Uniform on the day they will have these lessons but our Head of PE, Miss Singleton will be in touch in due course if we are able to facilitate this. Lockers will not be available at this time and most extra-curricular activities will be suspended for the first few weeks of term. It would also be advisable for your child to have a sensible, waterproof coat. Unless the weather is very inclement, we will be encouraging all of the students to get some fresh air at break and lunchtime.

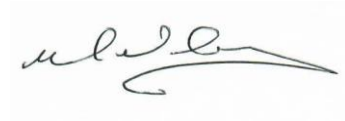
Some families have enquired about the wearing of face-masks. You will be no doubt aware that there is currently some debate nationally on this. The current DFE and PHE guidance still advises against this in a school setting where there are no local lockdown restrictions in place. This advice could of course change and if it does, we will update our advice and guidance accordingly. As things currently stand, your son/daughter should only wear a mask if using public transport to and from school, not in school. If you have a particular reason why you feel they should wear one, please contact your child's Head of Year as outlined above. If, for example, there are particular health needs or someone at home is vulnerable, please put this into writing and we will work with you accordingly. This is not a simple concept where it is possible to have a 'blanket' rule so please discuss this as advised if you feel it is a particular issue for your child or your family. Some staff may well be wearing masks or visors, again this could be due to particular health or family issues. We will monitor this situation carefully and make any necessary adjustments as required.

As I apologised in my last letter, I apologise again. This all sounds like a long list of 'do's and don'ts'. You will appreciate that this is an unknown situation for us here at school as it is for you and your son/daughter. No doubt, issues will arise along the way, they have throughout this pandemic. What I

am sure of is that getting your child back to education is imperative. I am also sure that if everyone follows the rules and guidance around hygiene, staying away from school if there are symptoms in the family until a test is carried out, being organised and following all the school rules around behaviour and attitude, then we will get everyone's education back to some sort of normality.

We are looking forward to welcoming all of our students back. We will go through all of this carefully with them next week during assemblies and Form periods. Please do get in touch with your relevant Head of Year in the first instance if you have any queries or questions. I will continue to keep in touch with you as the weeks unfold.

Best wishes,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'M. McGarry', with a long, sweeping underline that extends to the right.

Mr McGarry
Headteacher