



September 2020

Dear Parents/ Carers

**Important Update for Week Commencing 21 September 2020**

I just wanted to let you know about some changes we are making from this Monday.

We have been back for just over two weeks and we have had no confirmed cases of coronavirus, although we have had a number of students and staff who have had to take tests and self-isolate because either they or a household member have had one of the 3 symptoms (a high temperature; a persistent cough; or a change in their normal sense of taste or smell). If we do have a confirmed case, I will let you know as soon as I have liaised with the local health protection team. There were a couple of unsubstantiated rumours this week that we'd had a few cases. We haven't and please rest assured that if we had I would have let you know immediately.

As you know, we continue to monitor the plans we put in place for a safe return to school this September. We have now had the students all back in for a week and, although most of the plan is working well, there are a few things that I think need changing.

1. From Monday, we will be reducing student attendance in assemblies to approximately 50%, with the other half of the year group viewing it remotely. The guidance is very clear that assemblies are fine as long as year groups do not mix together during these events, but a few concerns have been raised and I am also aware that the R rate has been rising nationally and locally. The students who attend assemblies will sit in alternate seats and we will operate a Week 1/ Week 2 rota. This will allow us to keep a sense of community, which I think is important, as well as reinforcing social-distancing.
2. From Monday, we will be dismissing Years 7 and 8 10 minutes early to reduce the numbers of students going through the Hamble Lane gate at the same time. We cannot stagger the beginning of the day because of the large numbers of students who rely upon public transport. This hasn't been a huge problem because the students times are naturally staggered because they tend to arrive at slightly different times anyway. However, the end of the day has been less successful because our entrance is quite narrow. If Year 7/8 students cannot leave at this time (perhaps because you cannot collect them any earlier), they can wait in the area that they line up for when they have assembly. This will allow them to remain distanced and on site. The new finishing time for Years 7 and 8 will be 2.25pm on a Monday and 2.45pm the rest of the week. This will only be a temporary measure while we are dealing with coronavirus and we will switch back when it is safe to do so.

[www.thehambleschool.co.uk](http://www.thehambleschool.co.uk)

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Please reinforce the importance of social distancing with your child as much as possible. Over the past week, we have seen schools across the country having to send groups of students home or even close entirely because of suspected incidents of coronavirus. If students are mixing between groups, which some continue to do (particularly when coming to school or going home) then it potentially increases the number of students I will have to ask to self-isolate for two weeks in the event of a coronavirus incident. This also includes mixing with students from other year groups at the weekend - I know it's difficult but we have to do what we can to keep everyone safe so that we can get through this with minimal disruption.

As always, thank you for your understanding and support.

Yours faithfully

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'A Govan', followed by a period.

Mr A Govan  
Headteacher

*If at any time, you should require special arrangements to be made when visiting the school and/or in order to participate fully in supporting your child at school (e.g. an accessible venue for meetings, if you are a wheelchair user, assistance with translation of documents or enlarged copies of communications etc.), please do not hesitate to let us know.*