

What Matters at Sidcot from September 2020

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Sidcot
Live Adventurously



Dear Parents

After what has been a challenging time for everyone as we have battled with the effects of the Coronavirus pandemic, we are now looking forward to September and are planning for the return to a full educational offer at Sidcot. I have been working with my Senior Management Team to put in place arrangements that allow us to open safely and in accordance with the prevailing Government guidelines. However, as we prepare these plans in July we are aware that they may be subject to revision before September. With this in mind, we have made the following assumptions in our planning:

1. **Full school opening – Senior School, Junior School and Boarding;**
2. **Social distancing of 1 metre;**
3. **Two week quarantine period on-site for international boarders on entry to the UK, in line with prevailing Government advice;**
4. **Current infection control measures in place.**

I hope you will find the information we have produced of interest and, more importantly, reassuring that we have carefully considered all aspects of school life to make sure that the highest standards of hygiene and safety are maintained for all students and staff. We will update you with any changes to our plans, should this be necessary, over the summer holiday period. However, if you have any further questions, please get in touch on this dedicated email address:

September2020@sidcot.org.uk

In the meantime, I hope you stay safe and have an enjoyable break over the summer. We are very excited about welcoming students and families back to Sidcot in September!

With kind regards



Iain Kilpatrick
Headmaster



Start of Year Arrangements

In addition to our normal start of year arrangements, we have factored some additional opportunities for students to allow them to feel safe and secure in returning to school after a period of absence. You will see from the programme outlined below, which takes us to the start of term, that we have organised **Student Orientation and Induction sessions**. This will give a chance for all students to come into school to meet their tutors and friends prior to the commencement of teaching.

Although the focus of these meetings will be on social re-integration, we will also use the opportunity to brief students on any new protocols and operating conditions in line with social distancing and other safety measures related to the management and containment of Coronavirus in school. As with the rest of our planning, these arrangements are in line with current Government guidance and the assumptions for September outlined earlier. They may, therefore, be subject to revision over the summer, in which case, we will communicate further.

IWK – June 2020

Date	Activity	Attendees
Tuesday 18 August	Boarders' Quarantine	International Boarders required to quarantine on entering the UK
Monday 24 and Tuesday 25 August	School open to staff	Teaching and support staff
Wednesday 26 August	Staff CPD – Day 1	All staff
Thursday 27 August	Staff CPD – Day 2	All staff
Friday 28 August	Student Orientation 1	Years 8/9 – morning (9:00-11:00) Year 10 – afternoon (13:00-15:00)
Monday 31 August	Bank Holiday	
Tuesday 1 September	Student Orientation 2	Year 11 – morning (9:00-11:00) Year 13 – afternoon (13:00-15:00)
Wednesday 2 September	Student Induction Boarders Return for Induction	Year 7 and Year 12 – all day (9:00-15:00)
Thursday 3 September	Start to term	All staff and students

Please note all photographs used in this brochure were taken prior to the Coronavirus pandemic restrictions.

What matters... in our teaching and learning



We understand that returning to School might feel a little daunting, but we wanted to reassure you that your teachers have provided lots of work through the Online Supported Learning (OSL) that will have helped you to stay on top of things.

It is natural to feel like we can't remember lots of topics or detail, but upon return to school we will be supporting all students to regain confidence in their academic learning and progress. **What matters** is that we help everyone to be on their feet and raring to go, as soon as we have all had time to adjust.

Technology

Technology has played a huge part in our interactions and education over the last few months and we want to keep it this way! We have been really impressed by how intuitively everyone has adapted to these new ways of working. **What matters**, now that our students and teachers are so adept at using OneNote and Teams, is keeping these systems and the use of IT as an integral part of how we learn at Sidcot; accordingly, BYOD (bring your own device) will remain a significant focus for us.

We are always keen to challenge ourselves with making our **Teaching and Learning at Sidcot** continually more exciting and effective. Our Sidcot Learning Wheel skills have certainly been at work, even during lockdown, with resilience, self-managing and research skills, in particular, having the chance to bloom!

Sport

We are hoping to be able to run a full sports programme in September. However, this will be dependent on the prevailing guidance from the Government on social



distancing and student contact. Our Director of Sport is liaising with his opposite numbers in the schools we play matches against to produce a co-ordinated fixture list for the Autumn Term.

Outdoor learning

With our beautiful environment, Sidcot will be embracing Outdoor Learning opportunities and making the most of the huge range of inspirational spaces where learning can take place. We will be looking at variety in the classroom, best practice for behaviour and how what we have learnt from recent events can continue to improve learning for all.



What matters to us most is ensuring our learning community continues to draw strength from working together. Collaboration between students, teachers and parents has hugely increased and we don't want to lose this – the research tells us this enriches everybody's experiences and creates the best environment for learning to thrive.

What matters...

about pastoral care



We recognise the impact Covid-19 will have had on all our students' wellbeing, and feeling nervous when initially coming back to Sidcot will be commonplace for many. The emotional wellbeing and mental health needs of our students are central to considering how we can best support them to transition back into school upon re-opening in September.

Sidcot is particularly mindful to prioritise providing a safe and nurturing environment in which students can settle and thrive and which is conducive to learning.

Community

Sidcot recognises that **Community is the foundation** of recovering from the experiences of Covid-19 and lockdown.

- Students will have the opportunity to come into School early for orientation for Years 8, 9, 10, 11, 13 and an in depth induction for Year 7 and Year 12.
- The role of the tutor is central to creating a safe environment and students will return to tutor base several times a day for an opportunity to connect, support and nurture.
- Tutor groups will be kept deliberately small, so that supportive relationships can be established with ease.
- Our usual community events, such as assemblies and our weekly Meeting for Worship, will connect all students across the school via live video conferencing and will take place in tutor groups or year groups, where possible.

Mental health and wellbeing

Making time for students to talk and process will be key to helping settle our students back into the school environment.

- Formal settings to talk about shared and individual experiences, such as in tutor time, through PSHE (Personal, Social, Health and Economic) lessons, or in the boarding houses will be available to all students.
- We recognise that creative and physical activities through our co-curricular offer and outdoor learning will be excellent outlets for students, which will have a positive impact on mental health and wellbeing.



- Additional provision for students to talk when needed will be put into place with our in-house Take Ten Mentors and the School counsellor.

Structure and routine

Whilst students need to be given time to adjust and to adapt, structure and routine will play a vital part in helping students settle.

- We plan for the routine during the school day to stay the same, albeit with some small adaptations to facilitate the safe circulation of students between lessons.
- School uniform will be worn as usual in School; the Sixth Form will be required to be dressed in smart casual clothes and more formal smart wear at least one day a week.
- Break times and lunch times: These are important times in the school day for our students and the aim is to ensure students can continue to socialise in a safe way.

What matters... for our boarders



We are very much looking forward to welcoming boarders in September. All boarding families should have now received a [travel form](#) to complete and this must be returned to the relevant Housemaster/mistress by 1st August 2020.

Once we have this information, we can organise transport from Heathrow airport and prepare the boarding houses for the coming weeks. Please do take us up on the offer to have a SKYPE call with the boarding staff, particularly if you have any outstanding queries.

Quarantine

- The School will open on **Tuesday 18th August and Wednesday 19th August to accommodate any overseas boarders who need to quarantine** and wish to do so before school starts.
 - **A second quarantine period will start on Wednesday 2nd September** for any boarders joining us then. Boarders in quarantine will be able to join lessons online during this time.
 - If you can't arrive for the start of term on any of those dates specified, you will need to make alternative arrangements for quarantine. Guardians are best placed to organise this for you.
 - There will also be a possibility for boarders to be quarantined in School if they are joining after October half term.
 - Boarders will stay in their boarding houses for the quarantine period and will be looked after by the resident boarding staff.
 - Our boarding houses will become 'family bubbles'. Boarders will be able to socialise within their bubble, including going for walks in the school garden and using the School's sports facilities subject to Government guidance.
- Boarders will not be able to leave the School site during this period nor will they be able to receive visitors during this time.
 - Boarding houses will be cleaned regularly.
 - Boarders will be expected to wash their hands regularly, use hand sanitiser and wear face masks should they wish to do so.
 - Boarders will be socially distanced whenever possible and face masks worn as appropriate.
 - Boarders will eat breakfast and lunch in their houses. A hot evening meal will be served in the School Refectory.

If a boarder becomes ill or displays Covid-19 symptoms, they will be isolated and looked after by a health care professional in separate School accommodation. If required, they will be looked after in hospital.

The Autumn Term

- The houses will be set up to promote social distancing and boarders will be encouraged to respect the hygiene protocol.
- There will be an enhanced cleaning regime in all the houses.
- Laundry arrangements will be made to facilitate regular washing of all clothing.
- We have revised the uniform policy to accommodate this period so they will only need to wear School uniform on a Monday and ensure that they have a clean set of casual clothes for all the other days of the week.
- We will be able to look after our boarders on-site if the country goes back into lockdown.
- The boarding houses will remain open during the October half term if students don't wish to travel. There will be an additional cost for this.
- All visits to the houses must be pre-arranged with boarding staff and will be supervised to ensure hygiene protocols are adhered to.



What matters...

with our online learning



We have been really impressed by the way students have adapted to online learning during the period of school closure. There have been many valuable lessons learned and transferable skills acquired. We don't want to lose any of these and will be continuing to incorporate aspects of online learning into the delivery of the curriculum when we return in September.

Bring Your Own Device (BYOD)

As we all know, technology is now a significant part of all our lives even more so in the current climate. The way we do things around the home and the way we do things at work are constantly changing as the technology develops.

Year 9 and above

In line with our strategy from **September 2020**, all **Year 13, Year 12, Year 11, Year 10** and **Year 9** students **will be required to have an IT device** that matches the school specification. **They must be able to use a stylus**; have a large screen (25cm or larger); be able to use a keyboard; run Microsoft Office and ideally NOT be able to use mobile data. If you require any support on selecting a device, please email **byod@sidcot.org.uk** where the team will be happy to advise and help.

Year 7 and Year 8

For these year groups, it is not currently compulsory to bring personal devices into School from September 2020. However, they are welcomed and if Year 7 and Year 8 students already have a device, they are encouraged to bring them into School. Devices for use in School need to meet our minimum specification to work with the School system and be of beneficial use in lessons.

Students using computers on-site will need to sanitise their hands before and after using the IT equipment. The equipment will also be cleaned in between uses to ensure a clean working environment.

General

Audio

To make audio work well in lessons **please make sure you have your own wired headphones**. Using wireless headphones will cause issues in the School environment.

Free access to Microsoft Office for all Sidcot BYOD users:

This can be downloaded and used **for free** from the School whilst your child is a student at Sidcot. Just go to **www.office.com**, ask your child to login using their school email address and password, then click on the install link in the top right.



Can your child use their device in examinations?

Please note that, even though our normal way of working in lessons will be with the use of IT, only those students with a specific learning need that requires the use of a device will qualify to their use IT in public exams. This can only be done with the approval of our Coordinator. **The 'normal' default is IT will not be used in public examinations.**

What's different...

in our organisation & operations



Our top priority when school opens again is maintaining the health and safety of everyone on campus. As we are still likely to be in the phase of controlling and managing Coronavirus, there are steps that we are putting in place in how we operate the school day, which will be different.

We hope that these measures will be reassuring and help us all feel well protected and confident in our time at Sidcot, whether as a day student, a boarder or a member of staff.

At School

Cleaning regime: enhanced cleaning particularly of frequently touched surfaces, toilets, classrooms and boarding houses.

Hygiene: posters reminding everyone about washing and sanitising hands; sanitisers available at all entrances and frequent intervals around all circulation spaces.

Classroom set-up: the classrooms have had all unnecessary furniture removed and the individual desks will be arranged to comply with social distancing requirements.

Movement around the School: circulation spaces will be managed with one-way systems etc to maximise social distancing and signage will be installed to make this clear.

Refectory and food provision: the delivery and consumption of food will be managed in such a way as to minimise possible infection and maximise social distancing.

Trips and visits expectations: trips and visits will take place only where it is deemed to be appropriate following rigorous risk assessment.

Use of outside space: plan to maximise the use of outside space; the School has numerous facilities for outdoor learning which will be used extensively.



Risk assessments: these will be developed for all areas of the School in order to ensure that social distancing is maximised at all times and possible infection minimised.

Face masks: these will be used in circumstances where social distancing is not possible and when students choose.

Off-site

Transport – day students: will continue to walk, be delivered to School by car or travel on the school bus, where they will be obliged to wear face masks. Day students will be discouraged from travelling on public transport.

Transport – boarders: boarders will be collected from airports and transported to School on school transport, wearing face masks if social distancing is not possible.





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