



2 September 2020

Dear Parents and Carers,

I am incredibly grateful for the hard work and care being taken by the staff at CGS to prepare for your child returning to school. From our site team, to our teachers and support staff, everyone is working to ensure a happy and healthy return to school.

In response to changes in government guidance and to questions and requests from parents and carers, I am writing to update you on the following:

- Face coverings
- Lunch arrangements
- Morning and homework club
- Additional government guidance on school commutes
- Recorded presentation explaining COVID secure measures

Face Coverings

The government issued additional guidance on face coverings on 1st September 2020: 'The government is not recommending universal use of face coverings in all schools. In particular, schools that teach years 7 and above may decide to recommend the wearing of face coverings for pupils, staff or visitors in communal areas outside the classroom where the layout of the schools makes it difficult to maintain social distancing when staff and pupils are moving around the premises, for example, corridors.

Based on current evidence and the measures that schools are already putting in place, such as the system of controls and consistent bubbles, face coverings will not be necessary in the classroom even where social distancing is not possible. Face coverings would have a negative impact on teaching and their use in the classroom should be avoided'.

At CGS we recognise that having the choice to wear a face covering will be reassuring for many in our community. **We would ask students to bring a plain (blue/black/grey) face covering into school in a sealable plastic bag. They are welcome to wear face covering appropriately in communal areas/corridors of the school.** The wearing of face coverings will not be compulsory; it will be optional. Face coverings will not be worn when eating or in classrooms. The only exceptions to this would be where individual risk assessments for vulnerable staff/students or school areas are agreed to need additional safety measures. We will spend time on Monday 7th September ensuring all students understand how to wear face coverings safely and ask all parents/carers to go through with the following World Health Organisation (WHO) guidance on [fabric masks](#) with their child ahead of returning to school.

Lunch Arrangements

As part of our cautious response to returning to school we not able to provide hot meals. Instead we will be providing the opportunity to all parents and carers to order from a pre-bookable menu selection costing £2.60 (no cost to families who receive free school meals) to order in advance. A separate communication from Aspens about their exciting new menu and how to pre-order these personalised 'grab bags' will follow soon. There will be no opportunity to buy food at break time, all students will need to bring a healthy snack and a water bottle with them every day. We are reviewing our provision with Aspens and as soon as it is secure to do so, we will begin to reintroduce a wider food offering.

Morning and Homework Club

We will be adapting our after-school homework club provision to support families with staggered exit times. Homework club will continue to run in the library, and we will ensure COVID safe measures are in places where year groups bubbles may share the space but must remain socially distanced.

It will begin earlier at 2.45pm for years 7 and 8 (this is where they can remain on site to wait for a sibling in another year group). Homework club will run Monday to Thursday until 4.00pm. All students will need to have left the school site by 4.00pm to allow enhanced cleaning for the next day. Homework club will not run on a Friday.

Upon feedback from parents we have added provision for students to be in school before their allocated entry time under supervision of a member of staff. This session before school will run from 7.45am until 8.15am in the café area. Students should enter through the main reception doors and will move to their classrooms at 8.20am before the start of staggered entry for year groups.

If you would like your child/children to attend homework club or pre-school club, please book a space using [this google form](#). This continues to be a free provision offered by CGS and will begin from the first day of term for all students on Monday 7th September. Please make this booking by Friday 4th September – places are not limited but we must have advanced booking to allow us to plan safely. All bookings for a week must be made by the end of the previous week and wherever possible for the whole half-term.

For the first term we will not be running any extra-curricular activities beyond homework club to allow for a careful and secure return to school. At the end of September, we will review how the first few weeks have gone and, if safe, begin to reintroduce some of our extra-curricular programmes.

Additional Government Guidance on School Commutes

We are delighted at the numbers of students who are intending to cycle to school, please do email school to book a place if your child would like to join the growing number of students choosing this route to school (info@colstongirls.org). The government issued this additional guidance about travel to school recently:

If your child needs to share a car to school with someone outside of their support bubble or household, they should:

- share with the same people each time
- open the windows for ventilation
- if they are over the age of 11, wear a face covering

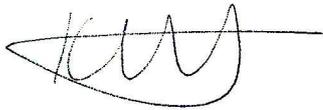
I will also take this opportunity to remind everyone that face coverings are compulsory for young people over 11 on all public transport. It is really important that face coverings are worn correctly.

Recorded Presentation Explaining COVID Secure Measures

Please find below a link to a recorded explanation of our COVID secure measures and we remind all parents and carers of the live Q&A with myself and the Vice Principal, Emma Young at 5pm today. Please email info@colstonsgirls.org to be emailed a link to join us. We really welcome parental engagement with our COVID secure planning and encourage anyone with questions or suggestions to join the TEAMS meeting this evening.

Everyone at CGS understands the natural concerns that parents and carers have about their child returning to school and we are keen to work with families to support our students back to school safely and happily.

Yours sincerely



Mrs Kerry McCullagh
Principal