



Christopher Whitehead Language College & Sixth Form
Return to School October 2020 – Frequently Asked Questions
Response to Parental Survey



1. Why do students have to wear PE kit/a blazer?

We are trying to avoid busy areas, queues and changing rooms, whilst keeping students active and doing all the lessons. Arriving already changed increases the lesson participation time and keeps them safe.

Wearing a blazer increases smartness and ensures students have vital equipment. Some students often forget vital equipment when they do **not** have a blazer. The blazer is an item of clothing to keep a mask in safely. Smart PE fleeces can be kept in the bag for wet days when a coat will be also needed – after all they are not now bringing PE kit.

2. Why have the times changed, in particular lunchtimes?

Please see the letter to Parents/Carers of 14 October 2020

<https://christopherwhitehead.co.uk/letters-home/>

3. Where does my child go at break times during wet weather?

We have increased the covered areas outside to give students areas to shield in during wet weather. For torrential rain, we will be opening the following classrooms for specific year groups:

Break 1	Years 7/8/9	Canteen covered area
	Year 10	Ground floor geography rooms
	Year 11	Ground floor maths classrooms

or upper playground

Break 2	Year 10/11	Canteen covered area
	Year 7	Ground floor English classrooms
	Year 8	Gym
	Year 9	Sports hall – shoes off

We have been lucky so far with only one wet break!

4. EduLink v Google Classroom.

EduLink	Google Classroom
App and website to support home/school communication. Used for recording and monitoring homework; sending messages home; reporting absences, etc.	An online 'classroom' where students can access work, complete quizzes and assignments and then post their home learning and get feedback. (Details of homework set and deadlines will still be on EduLink.)
Used by: Teachers, students, parents/carers	Used by: Teachers and students

Simplistically, parents need to think that EduLink is an electronic diary.

Google Classroom is an electronic filing cabinet where resources and tasks are held. No single website or platform will meet the needs of all subjects, which is why we have long established platforms such as Hegarty for maths and Kerboodle for science.

All students have/will have undertaken a Google Classroom task. Staff in all departments are available to support students who are struggling.

5. My child struggles to get food at the canteen.

Students have been given priority use of the canteen. There are **always** covered seating areas. Queues do not last longer than 10 minutes for 'chip day' Fridays. This is the busiest day!

From 2nd November	Years 7/8/9	Break 1	10.45 – 11.15am
From 2nd November	Years 10/11	Break 2	1.20 – 1.50pm

In addition, there is the option for the outside pod. We have increased the places to sit by having 200+ seats in covered outside seating areas. Some parents are providing fabulous packed lunches, which can be eaten in the safe covered seating areas. Drinking fountains are available in the arts block canteen and the maths corridor to refill water bottles. We have a number of lovely, expensive bottles waiting for collection in our lost property.

6. Concerns expressed regarding the rigour of the hand sanitising regime.

All students hand sanitise on entry to the school and before all lessons. Thank you to all who bring personal hand sanitiser to school.

7. I am concerned with the close proximity of seating in classes of 30 students.

This is an understandable concern. All students are placed in a seating plan, facing the front of the class. The advice we have been given is that face to face direct contact is where the spread of the virus is most prevalent. Hence, students facing the front of the class. Teacher 2 meters away behind a line.

8. Older students' parents expressed concerns about the readiness for summer exams.

This is a perfectly understandable anxiety for students, parents and the teachers. Students have returned really well and are trying to maximise their potential. Coursework/any homework should be completed carefully as it provides staff with evidence, and the student with confidence, if successful! By returning to a later departure of 3.20pm, we will catch-up older students who need support.

Two exam periods for years 11 and 13 are November and January – a time to assess where we are.

9. What is the best way to contact a teacher?

The best method of contacting a teacher is by email and you should receive a reply within 48 working hours dependent on the working week, i.e. Friday 5.00pm – reply by Tuesday 5.00pm, Thursday 10.00pm – reply by Tuesday 8.00am.

10. Why has it taken half a term to start year 7 Mandarin?

We wanted to give year 7 students a taster lesson to see if they enjoyed the method of teaching. This is a huge commitment and is a challenge, a demand of time, effort and intelligence. However, this unique course has proved to be hugely popular with those who can persevere.