

From: *The Principal and
Chief Operating Officer*



SEDBERGH SCHOOL

FOUNDED 1525

10 August 2020

To the Community of Sedbergh

Return to School Plans for Sedbergh School – September 2020

Sedbergh School is working hard to prepare for the return of its pupils in September. We will operate within the government guidelines pertinent at the time, with the dual objective of minimising the risk of infection in both the community of the School and the wider Sedbergh community. We therefore write to advise you of our current risk mitigation measures as we anticipate the School operating in a different way in some respects next term.

A number of pupils travelling from overseas will return to Sedbergh in mid-August. These pupils will be resident in one boys' and one girls' house within the School, and will be strictly confined to the School campus during the period prior to the start of term.

Assuming schools in Cumbria are allowed to open, on Saturday 5 September the year 9 pupils will arrive for their first taste of Sedbergh, along with the Upper Sixth to support them settling in. After 24 hours they will be joined by the rest of the School and term commences at 7pm on Sunday 6 September. On arrival, no parents will be allowed to accompany their children into boarding houses and no pupil exhibiting any of the recognised C-19 symptoms will be permitted to return to School.

For at least the first two weeks of term, the pupils will be confined to the campus perimeter and our regime of risk infection control as required under the relevant guidelines at that time will be in place. Our measures will include a restriction of visitors to the campus, no off-site trips and no interaction with the local community. Pupils will not be allowed to visit any shops in town. Their lessons will take place as normal, but there will be no large indoor gatherings of pupils, ie no Chapel services or assemblies. All pupils will have their temperature taken twice a day. We currently anticipate requiring pupils and staff to wear masks indoors.

If, during this period, there is a need to speak to a member of School staff, please do call the Main Office on 015396 20535 and your call will be transferred to the relevant person.

After the initial period of lockdown, assuming there are no instances of C-19 infection, the School will move into a less stringent regime which will allow some visitors, trips and activities. Pupil temperatures will be taken once a day. There will be some managed access to the town to limit the number of pupils at any one time. Pupils and staff will be expected to rigidly adhere to government guidelines regarding visiting retail outlets and hospitality venues.

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We fully recognise how important it is for the town that any risk of infection is minimised, and, as part of this, the School has applied to close the footpath that runs around the cricket pitch and down the field below the Cloisters to Busk Lane. It is appreciated that Sedbergh residents frequently use this footpath and this will cause some inconvenience. However, in a period of campus lockdown it will be important to ensure all possibilities of cross infection are reduced. There will be no access to the School campus through the Bursary, Hart House, Winder House or Chapel drives. The footpath along Church Walk through to the main School gates will remain open, but pupil access on this route will be controlled.

We hope to move to a more normal operation later in the term with a full programme of events, sport, etc.

A facility is being created on campus to enable any pupil who displays symptoms to be isolated until a test result is obtained. Pupils who are found to have C-19 will go home or to their guardian as soon as arrangements have been made. Pupils who are associated with a symptomatic individual found to have C-19 will be isolated in line with government guidelines.

We hope the contents of this letter provide reassurance that the School will work with the community to reduce risk and anxiety surrounding the reopening. We also recognise the economic imperative to support local employment and local suppliers.

We will keep you advised of further developments during the term, and please do contact us via email to coo@sedberghschool.org if you have any specific questions.

With very best wishes.

Yours sincerely



Andrew Fleck
Principal



Peter Marshall
Chief Operating Officer