

The Swan School - September 2020 Reopening - FAQs for Parents

17th July 2020

Overview

Please find below the answers to questions submitted by parents about September re-opening. If you have any further questions, please do get in contact and we will provide a response (please note the school office will be closed from Wednesday 22nd July until Wednesday 26th August so any questions submitted during this time will be answered on our return).

Information will also be updated on our website as and when any amendments are made. You can view all of the relevant information on the dedicated Reopening page [here](#).

Attendance

Are all students required to return?

Yes, they are. Please get in contact with us if you foresee any issues; we would like to support you to get all children back to school

Will students have to wear school uniform?

Yes, they will need to wear full school uniform when they return. On days when they have PE, students should wear their kit to school to avoid having to change. Remember to check with us if you are unsure about any items of school uniform.

Good Hygiene Routines

Are students able to bring their own hand sanitiser

Yes, absolutely! We would also encourage them to bring their own tissues. Anything we can do to make our environment as clean as possible is welcome.

Grouping of Students

Will students be taught in their tutor group for all subjects?

Students will be taught in tutor groups for almost all subjects. There will be some mixing in PE (to allow single sex activities) and electives (to facilitate student choice and smaller groups). In year 8 maths, there will be a 'third set' on each side of the year group to allow for our least confident mathematicians to be taught in smaller groups and get specialist support. Interventions will also continue in small groups.

Academic Curriculum

How will practical subjects be taught without specialist spaces?

Unfortunately, while we have only part of the building available science, art and DT will have to be taught in 'normal' classrooms so we will be limited on practical work. We will continue to use the techniques that we have used during lockdown to try to overcome this challenge - for example filming experiments. When the full building is complete, it will be a priority for us to move into these new specialist spaces and more practical work will be possible then. We expect this to be December or January.

We have purchased additional resources to try to overcome the challenge of teaching practical subjects in non-specialist spaces.

Enrichment/Electives

What is the plan for the cancelled Wednesday elective? It was originally a double one week and a single the other - will children leave earlier one week and later the next?

We will be putting in an additional independent study period during period 5 on alternate weeks. Students will leave at 3.40pm every week. We feel that this will be easier for students to remember and for parents to make childcare provisions.

Pastoral/Behaviour

What spaces will be available for students at breaktime, particularly for more introverted students?

We do want to encourage as many students to be outside as possible and will use zoning to ensure that there are calmer spaces available outside where students can sit and chat. We intend to open our library at break and lunch to allow for quiet reading and will be running a specific pastoral lunch club for some students who struggle with their social skills.

Family Dining

Will snacks be available for purchase at break/allowed to be brought in from home?

Students are welcome to bring a healthy snack in for breaktime (fruit/veg; no nuts). They will also be able to purchase a snack from the dining hall at breakfast time, to eat at break. Breaktime snacks will be eaten in a designated area outside.

Can students bring their own water bottle?

Yes, we would ask all students to bring their own bottle to avoid needing to share water fountains.

School Events

Will any of these events be able to run - for example the garden party for year 7 parents and open events?

We are not sure at the moment but it is looking unlikely. We will try to think creatively to overcome this, for example running virtual events and potentially having smaller 'meet and greets'. We would very much like to run them, so if it is safe to do so, we will.