



DOHA BRITISH SCHOOLS

This email is for parents of pupils and students in Doha British Schools.

17th August 2020

Dear Parents,

I hope you have all had a restful summer break, I am writing to you with an update on our preparations for our students to return to school for the beginning of the new academic year on 1st September 2020. Senior leaders have remained in Qatar over the summer to ensure that we are able to put together plans which are right for our communities and which will enable our students to receive a world class education in a safe and well-managed environment. Our plans will adhere to guidance provided to all schools by the Ministry of Education and Higher Education (MoEHE), the details of which are as follows:

Stage 1: Tuesday 1st September – Thursday 3rd September

We will be operating at one third capacity at stage 1. Year groups will be in school as per the schedule below:

Tues 1st September, 7.30 am to 10.30 am	Wed 2nd September, 7.30 am to 10.30 am	Thurs 3rd September 7.30 am to 10.30 am
Year 10	Year 11	Year 13/12
Year 7	Year 8	Year 9
Pre school group 1	Pre school group 2	Pre school group 3
Reception group 1	Reception group 2	Reception group 3
Year 1 group 1	Year 1 group 2	Year 1 group 3
Year 2 group 1	Year 2 group 2	Year 2 group 3
Year 3 group 1	Year 3 group 2	Year 3 group 3
Year 4 group 1	Year 4 group 2	Year 4 group 3

Year 5 group 1	Year 5 group 2	Year 5 group 3
Year 6 group 1	Year 6 group 2	Year 6 group 3

In the Primary school, each class will be divided into 3 small groups. With one third of students in school each day for the first 3 days. For example, Year 6A group 1 will attend school on Tuesday, Year 6A group 2 on Wednesday and Year 6A group 3 on Thursday. Mr. Davies, Head of Primary, will be outlining the group lists to parents shortly.

Stage 2: Sunday 06.09.20 – Thursday 17.09.20

We will be operating at 50% capacity at stage 2. Students will return to school on alternate days, one day in school the other day working from home via the school's VLE platform for a 2 week period. The following two-week rotational system will be in place each day from 07.15 am – 12.30 pm:

Timetable of the school day for Primary and Secondary School pupils during stage 2

7.15 - 7.30	7.35 - 8.25	8.30- 9.20	9.20- 9.40	9.45- 10.35	10.40- 11.30	11.35- 12.25
Form	Period 1	Period 2	Break	Period 3	Period 4	Period 5

For Secondary school students.

Each form class will be separated into 2 halves. For example, half of Year 7B, will become 7B1 and the remaining will be known as 7B2. This will allow us to maintain a distance of 1.5 metres between students in class, as per MoEHE requirements. Students will be following their normal school timetable. The full schedule for students will be shared with parents once the details are finalised.

For Primary school students:

During stage two, each class in the primary school will be split in half. Each half of the class will then attend school on alternate days, for example, group A will attend on Sunday and group B will attend on Monday, for the whole two weeks. While children are at home, they will access lessons through Google Classroom and their year group websites, where applicable. All lessons through our VLE, will be consolidation activities or a re-cap of learning from the day before. We hope this will take some pressure off parents and for most children, except our very youngest pupils, will be accessible independently. Further details will be issued nearer the start of the new academic year.

Stage 3: Sunday 20.09.2 All students in all year groups to return to full in-school learning each day.

In addition to the plan outlined above, we will also ensure that the following strategies are implemented and adhered to at all times:

Returning to Qatar:

For all families who are arriving back into Qatar, please ensure you adhere to the MoPH guidelines for quarantine before returning to the school site.

Hygiene routines:

In line with governmental guidelines, all adults and students over the age of 12 years old must show a green Ehteraz status if they are to enter our school site. Temperature checks will also take place upon entry to the school and during morning registration. Hygiene teams will ensure that surfaces are cleaned and disinfected throughout the day. All staff and visitors will wear a face mask with the option of wearing a face screen during the day and students are able to wear a mask if necessary. Teachers and other professionals will ensure that frequent hand-washing and other hygiene measures take place over the course of the school day.

As well as our normal nurse's station, we will have an additional care area in place where students will be looked after if they fall ill during the school day. If this happens, we will ensure that the correct MoPH procedures are followed in terms of supporting those affected and communicating with families.

Entry/exit to the school site:

Entry to and from our school site for students will be staggered and will take place via designated drop-off and pick-up points, which we will communicate to all members of our community nearer the start of the academic year. This aspect of our plan is aimed to ensure that we avoid large crowds of people arriving and leaving our school at the same time. Students will go straight to classrooms upon arrival at school where they will be welcomed by their teachers. For EYFS and KS1, arrangements for drop off and pick up will be slightly different and communicated by Mr. Davies in the next few days.

Break/lunch arrangements:

During stage 1 and stage 2 break times will be restricted, so that students are kept apart from large crowds of other students from outside of their year groups. During stage 3 we will introduce designated areas for lunch and breaks to ensure that students are able to enjoy being with their friends whilst also keeping safe. On site catering facilities will be restricted, so we would encourage all students to bring their own packed lunch with them to school each day, as well as a pre-filled water bottle.

Resources:

Students should also ensure that they don't share any resources with other students during the school day – pens, pencils, rulers and other equipment should be kept in a named pencil case and students should only bring what they need for each day's lessons. Lockers will not be available in September and large bags should be kept at home. If students have personal devices, such as smartphones, then they must be kept securely in pockets all day and not used at all during school hours (not applicable to Primary school children).

Students should wear their normal school uniform each day apart from days when they have PE when they should wear their PE kit instead. We will not be using our changing rooms until the current pandemic is behind us.

Classrooms:

Where possible, students will remain in the same classroom and on the same seat all day so that movement around our corridors is kept to a minimum. When students do move around the school site, there will be arrows on the floor to indicate that students must keep to the right at all times and the direction in which they must move. In lessons, students will sit safely apart from each other and the teacher will lead the learning from the front of the room.

Prior to our summer break, we offered our parents an opportunity to post questions about the reopening of our school online and copied below is a summary of the key points raised:

[FAQs](#)

I hope that the measures that we will be putting in place will offer the necessary assurance to our community that we will do everything we can at all times to ensure both the continued academic excellence and the health and safety of our students. Our temporary strategies will be present for as long as this global situation is upon us and we will constantly review and adapt what we do so that our provision is the best that it can be. In order to ensure that all strategies are understood and accepted by all members of our community we have updated our Home School Agreement to include references to our new COVID19 health & safety measures; I would ask that all parents familiarise themselves thoroughly with all the steps that we need to take on a daily basis.

[Home School Agreement](#)

May I take this opportunity to welcome our new Vice Principal Mr Sheldon Smith who joins us from Al Jazeera academy where he spent 6 years as Principal. I am delighted that Mr Smith has joined us. Mr Smith will have a full overview of the Secondary School until a new Head of Secondary is appointed.

And finally, we are looking forward to welcoming you back to school and commencing our reopening plan subject to any further ministry announcements as outlined above. Further details will be communicated to you all in the coming weeks prior to the start of the new academic year.

Yours sincerely,

Paul Sherlock

Principal