



The Re-Opening of St Edward's in September 2020 – Part Two

This document is an update to guidance issued on 18th August, which can be read in full on the school website [here](#).

Arrival Times

As a reminder, the start-of-term timings are as follows:

- Fifth Form and Upper Sixth - Tuesday 1st September from 6pm
- Shells - Wednesday 2nd September from midday
- New Fourth Form and Lower Sixth - Thursday 3rd September from midday
- Returning Fourth Form and L6th - Thursday 3rd September from 6pm

Parking and Drop-Off

Avenue Field will be open for parking for new parents from midday on both Wednesday 2nd September and Thursday 3rd September. Quad Side parents will be able to drive into the Quad to drop off luggage but must 'drop and go', and can then park on Avenue Field (which is to the right just after the Field Side entrance and will be clearly signposted – see map [here](#)). Housemasters and Housemistresses will be in touch with more House-specific details shortly.

Travel, Quarantine and Health Monitoring

Throughout the summer, staff have been working hard to put in place meticulous and robust plans to enable us to run school life as safely as possible for the benefit of the whole community. We therefore ask all families to be absolutely certain that they have fulfilled all necessary quarantine requirements to the letter before bringing pupils back to Teddies. The same strict guidance is being given to members of staff.

As we have seen in schools in the USA and Scotland, school communities are not immune to Covid-19, and we must take every precaution possible to keep our community free of the virus so that life and learning at Teddies can resume.

Equally, we ask families to be vigilant about monitoring pupils' health before bringing them back to School. If you have any concerns at all about possible symptoms of Covid-19 in your household, please be extremely cautious and seek medical advice.

Masks

Based on guidance issued by the World Health Organisation at the weekend and by the UK government on Tuesday, we will require pupils and staff to wear face masks when moving around the campus from the start of term (unless they are exempt). Unlike in classrooms or in other settings, we cannot guarantee adequate distancing on many of our staircases and in some narrow walkways, and we therefore feel this is the safest approach. As with all our precautionary measures, we will keep our thinking in this area under review.

In our previous guidance, we asked that pupils return to school with six named, washable face masks in a plain colour – this is clearly essential given the new arrangements.

Face masks will also be required on the Teddies Coach.





Social Arrangements Outside School

We know that young people greatly enjoy spending time together outside school – and will certainly look forward to catching up with each other after such a long period of limited social gatherings. Looking again to the US, universities there report that despite very careful management of campus routines, student gatherings and parties at the start of the semester in August generated outbreaks of Covid-19, resulting in the universities in question having to revert to online learning.

It is vital that we all work together to do everything we can to keep Teddies physically open, and therefore we must ask that when pupils go home for the weekend, they remain at home and limit their social interactions to immediate family only.

Flu Vaccine

Flu symptoms can often be similar to Covid-19, so, to avoid unnecessary concern, all pupils and staff will be offered a flu vaccine in the Autumn Term, details to follow.

Closed Weekends

As previously advised, Saturday 5th and Sunday 6th September will be a closed weekend and we would ask that all boarders remain in School. House events will be organised on Sunday and it is important that all pupils are present to allow House communities to re-connect after such a long time apart. Day pupils are very welcome to join these events.

Additionally, the Saturday 19th and Sunday 20th September will be a closed weekend for Shell boarders to allow for filming of Shell Plays – about which Shell parents will hear more in due course. Shell day pupils will need to be in School on Sunday – timings will follow.

School Calendar

The events schedule is somewhat fluid given the circumstances, but a calendar for the first three weeks of term will be uploaded to the school website by the weekend. Find it under the What's On tab on the homepage.

Visitor Protocols

To protect the community, external visitors to St Edward's will be kept to an absolute minimum. Those for whom access to the School is essential will be subject to a temperature check at the Gatehouse, and will be asked to wear a mask and to use a special hand-washing station before entering the school grounds.

The Uniform Exchange

This is now open but having to work within very tight COVID regulation. Sadly, we are not able to let parents or pupils browse our stock or try on clothes. Please email uniformexchange@stedwardsoxford.org with your specific requests and sizes and if we have them in stock we can arrange for them to be left in sealed bags at Facilities reception on South Parade from Tuesday 1st September. The reception is manned from 8.30am – 4.30pm each day. Please note that we are not able to sell School Blazers at this time. We do, however, have a number of brand new girls' Sixth Form black suits (skirts and jackets) available in a range of sizes. If items do not fit, unfortunately, we are not able to accept returns. Prices have been adapted to recognise this. Thank you for your patience and understanding with these new procedures.

27th August 2020

