



Dorchester Learning Centre  
Monkton Park  
Winterborne Monkton  
Dorchester  
Dorset  
DT2 9PS

Telephone: 01305 261213  
Website: [www.dlconline.co.uk](http://www.dlconline.co.uk)

Headteacher: Phil Midworth

Date: 28<sup>th</sup> August 2020

Dear Parent/Carer

## September 2020

I hope that you have had a fantastic Summer.

I am writing to update you on our progress in respect of the prospect of schools opening more widely from September 2020. We are planning for all students and staff to return to school safely from Monday 7<sup>th</sup> September. We cannot wait to see them!

Please remember there is a targeted reintegration session for your child on Thursday 3<sup>rd</sup> or Friday 4<sup>th</sup> September. **If you cannot remember the time, please contact the office.** Transport will be as normal via taxi unless you have requested to transport your child.

I have enclosed a leaflet that maybe easier to share information with students.

I have written before and it remains true that we are totally committed to ensuring that the health and safety of every individual is a priority - your children; our staff; the wider community. A significant amount of risk assessment and mitigation has been done so that we can be satisfied that the wider opening of school will be done in the safest way possible. You can find the school risk assessment on the website.

There are a range of risk reduction strategies that I have shared previously but please adhere to the following school rules:

Parents and visitors will generally not be permitted into the school building, unless by prior arrangement. If you wish to discuss any concerns, you should do so through the school office by telephone or email.

### Face Coverings

As you may be aware, the government has recently changed their advice regarding wearing face masks in schools. Previously, they stated this was not necessary in any school. This has now been updated and the department for education state:

*“Nationwide, whilst the government is not recommending face coverings are necessary in education settings, schools will have the discretion to require face coverings in communal areas if they believe this is right in their particular circumstance.*

*Schools and colleges should take additional precautionary measures in areas where the transmission of the virus is high. These areas are defined as [areas of national government intervention](#).*

*In these local intervention (lockdown) areas, in education settings where Year 7 and above are educated, face coverings should be worn by adults and pupils when moving around, such as in corridors*



*and communal areas where social distancing is difficult to maintain. As in the general approach, it will not usually be necessary to wear face coverings in the classroom, where protective measures already mean the risks are lower, and they may inhibit teaching and learning.”*

Our local area has a low rate of COVID 19 infection and transmission and as a school we have taken a number of precautions to minimise risk. Therefore, in line with the above guidance, we will not be making the wearing of masks mandatory in any area of the school.

However, I do recognise that some students will feel more comfortable wearing a mask in the corridors or taxi and I am very happy for them to do so. Masks should be plain and worn correctly. It is vital that that face coverings are worn correctly and please see the link and the attached information sheet on [how to put on, remove, store and dispose of face coverings](#). This is imperative to avoid inadvertently increasing the risks of transmission.

Safe wearing of face coverings requires cleaning of hands before and after touching – including to remove or put them on – and the safe storage of them in individual, DLC will provide sealable plastic bags between use for student who wish to wear a mask.

I will review this of course in light of any updated government guidance and any changes in the local situation.

### **Autumn Half Term**

Please be aware that DLC is having a 2 week half term holiday this academic year. Therefore the first half term will be from 3<sup>rd</sup> September (for tutor session) until 16<sup>th</sup> October 2020.

This might be different from other schools.

I know I speak for all my staff when I say we cannot wait to see everyone back in September. If you do have any concerns please do email me [p.midworth@dlc.dorset.sch.uk](mailto:p.midworth@dlc.dorset.sch.uk) or contact the school office on 01305261213.

Yours faithfully



Phil Midworth  
Headteacher