



TANFIELD  
SCHOOL

HARD WORK | TRUST | FAIRNESS

Dear parent/carer,

I hope you have all had a good summer.

We are excited about getting our students back into school next week and we have been working hard to ensure that your child is as safe as possible. I thought it would be useful to remind you about how we are planning to do this.

Since our last communication there has been a small outbreak of Covid-19 in Stanley that shut down some establishments. I have been in contact with our local public health representative and they have told me that there are no concerns currently that would impact on us going back to school.

In welcoming all children back, schools were asked to minimise the number of contacts that a student has during the school day as part of implementing the following system of controls to reduce the risk of transmission:

- formal consideration of how to reduce contacts and maximise distancing between those in school wherever possible and minimise potential for contamination so far as is reasonably practicable
- a requirement that people who are ill stay at home
- robust hand and respiratory hygiene
- enhanced cleaning arrangements
- active engagement with NHS Test and Trace

### **Reducing contacts and maximising distancing**

Minimising contacts and mixing between people reduces transmission of coronavirus (COVID-19). To achieve this we have created 'bubbles' that are as small as possible. A year group will be the biggest 'bubble'. We have created zones across the school for different year groups, that can be seen on the map below. Year groups will remain in these zones for all of their lessons and teachers will move to the zone to deliver the lesson. There are very few classrooms that will be used by two year groups. This will not be at the same time. We have had to do this to ensure that specialist subjects like Technology and Art can still take place. Between uses, these rooms will be cleaned thoroughly.

As students are in one classroom in year 7 and 8 for all of their lessons they will only be surrounded by a very small number of students. In years 9, 10 and 11, students will be in one classroom for all subjects except their option subjects. When they have their options, students may need to move to another classroom within their year group zone.

Students will not be mixing with other year groups at any time. At break and lunchtime students will be in a zone with the rest of their year group. We will be encouraging students to minimise the number of people they are mixing with during these times and we hope that you will reinforce this. As you will see on the timetable, we have a split break and lunch which will be different to last year. This is to ensure that there are three year groups on one break and two on the other. This allows us to keep all year groups separate during these times.

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At lunchtime, students will be in their own zone. This means that we are unable to offer an extensive menu for lunch. Food will need to be transported to the various student zones. Therefore, we are requesting for students to bring a packed lunch to school if they can. For students on Free School Meals a hot or cold packed lunch will be provided. Whilst these are available to other students we would prefer students to bring their own to reduce numbers of students in the dining hall.

To avoid mixing at the start and end of the day we will be using three entrances to the school site. Once on site students will be separated into their year group zones. At the end of the day students will be escorted to their exit, by their teacher, at staggered times to avoid mixing. Obviously, when students are on their way to or from school, we hope that they will continue to avoid mixing with students from other year groups. We hope that you will support us with this request.

Each student will receive a drawstring bag and a pack of equipment on the first day. Students will keep all of their exercise books in the drawstring bag. This will prevent students and staff contracting the virus from touching books belonging to someone else. Students have also been bought a mini-whiteboard. These will help teachers to gain feedback from students during lessons that can be acted on immediately.

Whilst bubbles minimise contact with large groups of students, there is still some contact. Bubbles are in place of social distancing in schools. Bubbles make it easier to test and trace and isolate people who are in a bubble. However, if there is an infected individual in a bubble, there is a chance that the virus can spread through the whole bubble before it is detected. We want zero transmissions. Therefore, we are requesting that students wear face masks when it is not possible to keep social distancing.

In the last week the World Health Organisation has recommended that children aged 12 and over should wear face masks where social distancing is not possible. In other countries they are wearing face coverings. We are therefore going to request students wear a face covering for the first few weeks, when walking through corridors and in a classroom where social distancing is not possible. If there aren't any reported outbreaks from around the country then we will review the decision. We would rather be safe than sorry and ensure that all members of TeamTanfield are as safe as possible, in particular your older family members. 73.8% of parents have said that their child has a face covering. As mentioned in the previous letter, we will support anyone who is struggling to get one.

There is growing evidence for the use of face coverings. The Edinburgh School Of Engineering has shown that if somebody is coughing or talking, and wearing a mask, there is 10,000 times less droplet transmission to two metres away. It's actually better to be half a metre away from that person wearing a mask than two metres away if they're not wearing a mask. A paper published in the Journal of General Internal Medicine reported that wearing masks reduces the symptoms of Covid-19 due to taking in less virus. Normally about 40% of cases are asymptomatic. However, the scientists found that in an outbreak in a seafood plant in Oregon there were 90% of cases that were asymptomatic due to wearing masks. Two recent cases demonstrating the effectiveness of face coverings were of a man flying from China to Toronto who subsequently tested positive for COVID-19. He had a dry cough and wore a mask on the flight, and all 25 people closest to him on the flight tested negative for COVID-19. In another case, in late May, two hair stylists in Missouri had close contact with 140 clients while sick with COVID-19. Everyone wore a mask and none of the clients tested positive.

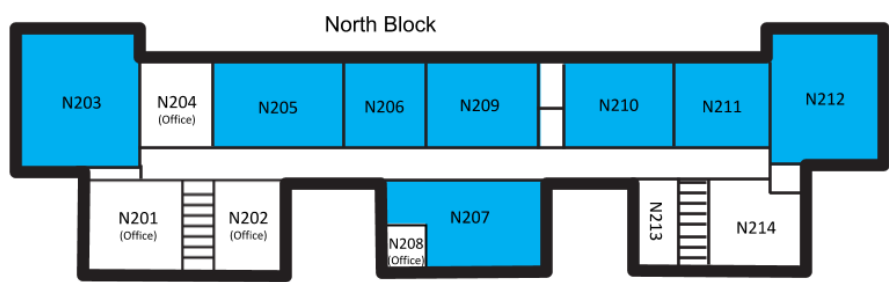
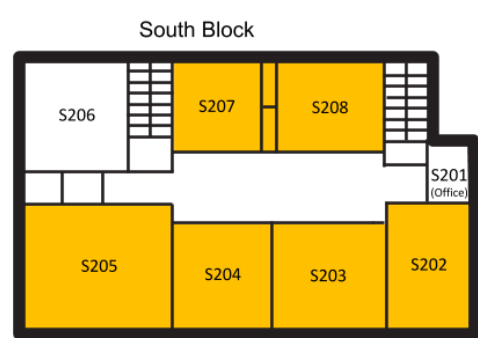
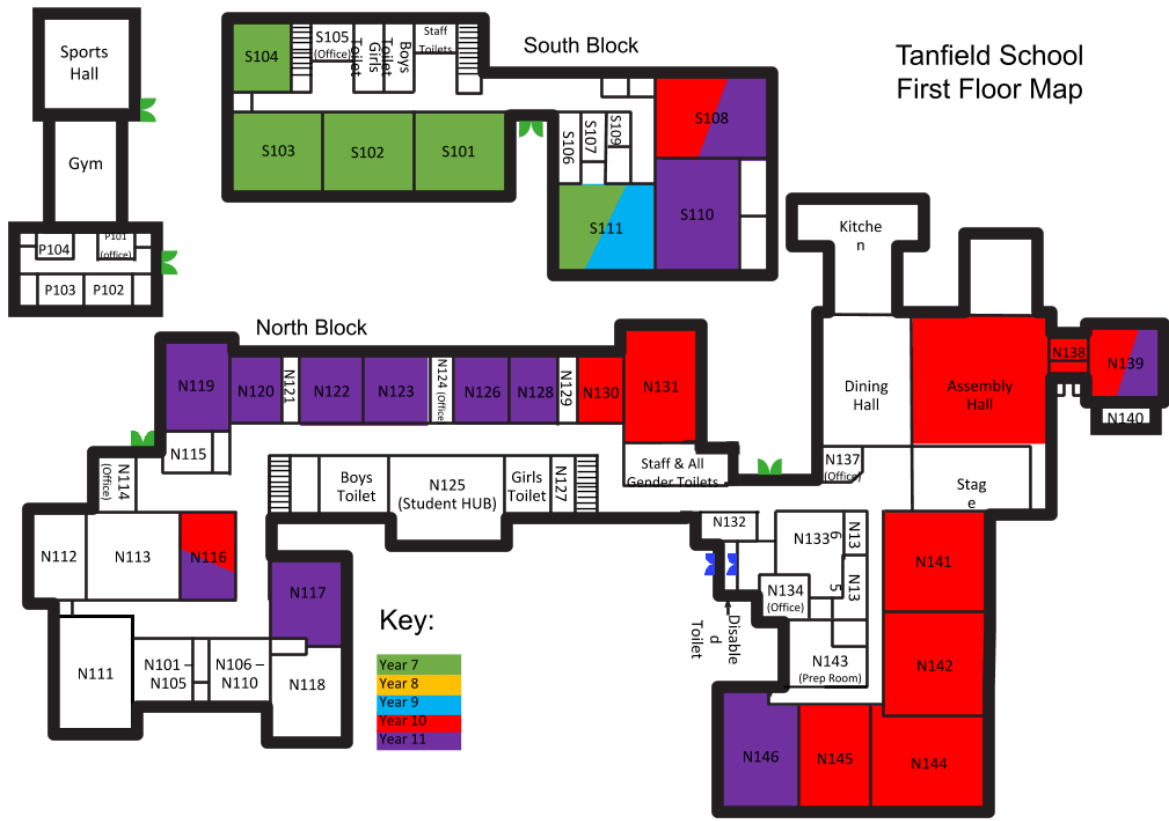
In our parent survey, 47.9% of parents are worried about their child returning to school. 44% are concerned that their child will catch the disease. 6.4% of parents replying are classed as extremely vulnerable or live with someone who is. As previously mentioned, TeamTanfield's safety is our number one priority and we hope this decision will ease some of your concerns.



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	8:30-8:40	8:40-9:00	9:00-10:00	10:00-10:15	10:15-11:00	11:00-11:15	11:15-12:15	12:15-12:45	12:45-13:10	13:10-13:40	13:40-14:35	14:35-15:05	15:05-16:05
Year 7	Arrival to school	Morning Meeting	Lesson 1	Break Inner Yard	Lesson 2		Lesson 3	Lunch Inner Yard	Lesson 4		Lesson 5	Afternoon Meeting	Student departure
Year 8	Arrival to school	Morning Meeting	Lesson 1	Lesson 2		Break Inner Yard Zone 1	Lesson 3	Lesson 4		Lunch Inner Yard Zone 1	Lesson 5	Afternoon Meeting	Student departure
Year 9	Arrival to school	Morning Meeting	Lesson 1	Break Outer Yard	Lesson 2		Lesson 3	Lunch Outer Yard	Lesson 4		Lesson 5	Afternoon Meeting	Student departure
Year 10	Arrival to school	Morning Meeting	Lesson 1	Lesson 2		Break outer Yard	Lesson 3	Lesson 4		Lunch outer Yard	Lesson 5	Afternoon Meeting	Student departure
Year 11	Arrival to school	Morning Meeting	Lesson 1	Lesson 2		Break inner Yard Zone 2	Lesson 3	Lesson 4		Lunch inner Yard Zone 2	Lesson 5	Afternoon Meeting	Get Exam Ready

### A requirement that people who are ill stay at home

Our usual attendance advice is to send your child to school if they have a bit of a headache, or upset stomach because often students are fine once they get to school. However, in the current situation we need students to stay at home if they or anyone in your household have a new, continuous cough or a high temperature, or has a loss of, or change in, their normal sense of taste or smell (anosmia). The 'stay at home: guidance for households with possible or confirmed coronavirus (COVID-19) infection' should be followed which sets out that students must self-isolate for at least 10 days and should arrange to have a test to see if they have coronavirus (COVID-19). Other members of your household (including any siblings) should self-isolate for 14 days from when your child first had symptoms.

If anyone in school becomes unwell they will be sent home. If a child is awaiting collection, they will be isolated in a designated room near to the main reception, with appropriate adult supervision. It is really important that we have up to date contact details to enable us to do this. Please contact us if any of this information has changed.

### Robust hand and respiratory hygiene

We will ensure students clean their hands regularly, including when they arrive at school, when they return from breaks, when they change rooms and before and after eating. We have rotas for toilets to ensure students from different year groups can not mix. We have also bought more hand sanitiser stations for around the school. However, we would encourage you to give your child their own bottle of hand sanitiser to bring to school.

The 'catch it, bin it, kill it' approach is very important. Therefore, we have tissues and bins available in all classrooms to support students and staff to follow this routine.

## Enhanced cleaning arrangements

We have introduced enhanced cleaning, including cleaning frequently touched surfaces more often, using standard products such as detergents and bleach. A designated team of staff will be following a cleaning schedule that ensures cleaning is enhanced and includes:

- more frequent cleaning of rooms / shared areas that are used by different groups
- frequently touched surfaces being cleaned more often than normal
- toilets will be cleaned regularly and students will be encouraged to clean their hands thoroughly after using the toilet

## Active engagement with NHS Test and Trace

The media have often reported that the way to beat this virus is through testing, tracing and isolating. It is important that all members of TeamTanfield follow this process to ensure that everyone can stay safe.

We need to look after each other and ensure that we are not spreading it to other members of the team. Therefore:

- Please book a test if you or your child are displaying symptoms
- Ensure your child does not come into the school if they have symptoms.
- All children can be tested. In school we will have details of who your child has been in close contact with in lessons, however, please provide details of anyone they have been in close contact with if asked by NHS Test & Trace.
- Self-isolate if your child has been in close contact with someone who develops coronavirus (COVID-19) symptoms or someone who tests positive for coronavirus (COVID-19)
- If anyone in your family displays symptoms of coronavirus (COVID-19) please get a test. Tests can be booked online through the NHS testing and tracing for coronavirus website, or ordered by telephone via NHS 119 for those without access to the internet.

Once you have had a test we would ask you to inform us of the result immediately so that we can take the necessary actions.

If someone tests negative, if they feel well and no longer have symptoms similar to coronavirus (COVID-19), they can stop self-isolating. However, they could still have another virus, such as a cold or flu – in which case it is still best to avoid contact with other people until they are better. Other members of your household would be able to stop self-isolating.

If someone tests positive, they should follow the 'stay at home: guidance for households with possible or confirmed coronavirus (COVID-19) infection' and must continue to self-isolate for at least 10 days from the onset of their symptoms and then return to school only if they do not have symptoms other than a cough or loss of sense of smell/taste. This is because a cough or anosmia can last for several weeks once the infection has gone. The 10-day period starts from the day when they first became ill. If they still have a high temperature, they should keep self-isolating until their temperature returns to normal. Other members of your household should continue self-isolating for the full 14 days.

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## Travelling to school

Face coverings are required at all times on public transport. Therefore, any student who is travelling to school on the bus will need to have a face covering on. We have contacted the bus company to ensure that no student is admitted without a face covering. If any parent is struggling to find a face covering please let us know, as we do have some face masks in school that we can give to students. We are also asking the bus company to have zones on the bus for different year groups as well as to provide sanitiser for students to wash their hands when entering and exiting the bus. We would also encourage all students to carry their own hand sanitiser. If possible we would encourage students to avoid buses.

## Quarantine

If you have been on holiday and arrived back from any of these countries: Andorra, The Bahamas, Belgium, Aruba, France, Malta, Monaco, The Netherlands, Turks and Caicos Islands, Austria, Croatia, Trinidad and Tobago or Spain please make sure to self-isolate for the full 14 days before sending your child back to school.

## Start times for September

As you will see, there are a lot of things that have changed for our students and we need to ensure that they understand all of the new routines. Therefore, we would like some extended time with each year group at the start of the year. Therefore, we are proposing the following start times:

Wednesday 2nd September - 8.40 am year 7 and 11.00 am for year 11.

Thursday 3rd September - 8.40 am year 10 and 11.00 am for year 9

Friday 4th September - 8.40 am year 8

Each year group will be in school full time from their start time. For example, year 7 will be in school Wednesday, Thursday and Friday. Year 10 will be in school Thursday and Friday etc.

Students are to enter through the main entrance where staff will meet them and direct them to where they need to be. Throughout the day, students will be told about their usual entrance and exit points and all other aspects of what they need to do.

If this is going to cause any issues for you, please let us know so that we can find a solution to support you.

We are asking students to wear their full uniform when attending school as this is a big part of being in TeamTanfield. The government guidance states:

“We would, however, encourage all schools to return to their usual uniform policies in the autumn term. Uniform can play a valuable role in contributing to the ethos of a school and setting an appropriate tone.

Uniforms do not need to be cleaned any more often than usual, nor do they need to be cleaned using methods which are different from normal.”

Whilst expectations of our behaviour policy remain the same, it is necessary in light of the current situation to make some adjustments for the safety of all students and staff. The updated policy will be shared with you in due course.

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What students need to have and do on the first day

- Wear full uniform
- Arrive at their designated time through the main gate
- Bring a face covering
- Bring a reading book
- Bring a bottle of water and snack as these will not be available at breaktime

There is no need to bring equipment as we will be providing it.

Finally, we want to thank you for the continued support you have given. We will continue to keep you updated with any further developments. Until then, I wish you and your families all the best.

Take care and stay safe,



Mr Clough

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