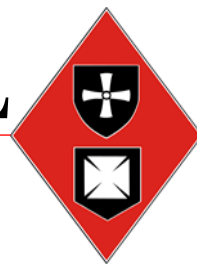


# DAME ALLAN'S SCHOOL

## FOUNDED 1705



4 August 2020

Dear Parent(s)/ Guardian(s)/ Carer(s)

### **Provisional arrangements for the start of the Autumn Term 2020**

First and foremost, we expect to welcome all of our pupils back to school in September, although, of course, **pupils should certainly not come into school if they, or any members of their household, are showing symptoms of the virus. Please could I remind you that the Schools should immediately be notified if any member of a household is showing symptoms of the virus via [absence@dameallans.co.uk](mailto:absence@dameallans.co.uk)**

Once in school, we shall keep pupils in appropriate 'bubbles' - essentially of classes in the junior school and year groups in the senior Schools, where the complexities of timetabling make it difficult to use form groups as bubbles. We shall, however, conduct non specialised lessons for pupils in Years 7-9 in one room per form, thus minimising movement around the Schools. Where such movement is necessary, it will follow a one way system. Hand sanitiser will be available for use across the Schools and we have asked our cleaning contractor to provide extra staff so as to allow for regular cleaning of high density use areas and features such as door handles. We shall not require pupils to wear face masks, though they may if they wish. Where pupils are coming to school on public transport, they should throw away any disposable masks on arrival (and will therefore need a replacement mask for the return journey) or should place any reusable mask in a sealed bag on arrival.

We believe these measures along with good personal hygiene practices (there remains no better precaution against the virus than regular and correct handwashing) will help to minimise the risks of transmission of the virus. However, in accordance with government guidance, should there be more than two cases of COVID-19 within a 'bubble', we would require all members of that bubble to self-isolate for two weeks.

Government guidance is also clear on the matter of uniform and, in accordance with it, we expect all pupils to attend in full and correct uniform in September. We would also encourage you to ensure that uniform is cleaned regularly in accordance with the manufacturers' guidelines.

We have decided not to amend the start and finish times at the senior Schools. The bus services provided by the Schools will run as usual and government guidance excludes such services from the requirement to wear masks. The Bursar will be writing to those who have already expressed an interest in using these services with details of how these will operate. If you make use of the services not run directly by the Schools (as detailed on the Schools website) you are advised to contact the provider directly with regard to services in September.

We plan to provide school lunches as normal, though the requirement to keep year groups apart over lunch means that timings will be very tight and choice will, therefore, be a little more limited than usual in order to allow as many pupils to pass through the dining hall as quickly as practically possible. We are also considering minor adjustments to our daily timings for pupils in Years 7 and 8 in order to allow lunchtimes to run as smoothly and efficiently as possible.

The requirement to keep year groups apart will also have an impact on the Schools' extra-curricular provision. We expect the wide range of activities to continue, though some areas such as contact sports, the playing of wind instruments and aspects of both drama and dance are subject to national limitations: we shall keep you informed as and when these change. Such activities will also be limited to particular year groups.

Within these limitations, we are genuinely looking forward to returning to what will, we hope, be as normal a version of Dame Allan's life as the current circumstances allow. We have very much missed working with your children and trust they too are looking forward to returning to school. However we do know that some may find this challenging. Do rest assured that we shall continue to monitor and support all of our pupils as we find our way back to normality. Please do not hesitate to contact us if you feel we can be of help with any aspect of the process of returning to school: for our part, we shall continue to keep you up to date with our thinking as the holiday progresses.

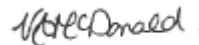
**Yours faithfully**



**Alan Hopper**  
Vice Principal (Academic)



**Natalie Shaw**  
Vice Principal (Pastoral)



**Vicki McDonald**  
Bursar and Clerk to the Governors