



Gomer Lane, Alverstoke, Gosport, Hampshire PO12 2QP

Email: [enquiries@bayhouse.gfmat.org](mailto:enquiries@bayhouse.gfmat.org)

Tel: (023) 92505 276

<https://bayhouse.gfmat.org>

Dear Parent/Carer,

28 August 2020

I hope you have all enjoyed a restful summer break after the challenges presented by school closures during the previous academic year. This letter communicates the start of term arrangements for those students who are entering the Upper Sixth in September.

Students will return to the Bay House site on **Monday 7th September** and will be registered in their tutor group at **11:00**. All students must enter via the Stanley Park Gate where they will be greeted by members of staff who will direct students to their tutor rooms. During these tutor sessions students will receive key messages delivered by the Sixth Form Team and important information will be shared regarding the safety measures being put in place to prevent the spread of coronavirus. Following the lunch break Upper Sixth lessons will commence in the afternoon.

During the morning of Tuesday 8th September Upper Sixth lessons will be suspended as pupils from other year groups will be entering the school site for the first time. Lessons will run in the afternoon and from that point onwards students will be expected to follow their new timetables.

It is necessary to make some significant changes to the school day due to the size of our school community, the need to stagger start and finish times, as well as break and lunchtimes. Sixth Form students will now receive two 2.5 hour lessons in each subject every week. This will mean that students will be provided with 10 hours of face-to-face tuition in each subject every fortnight. This is an increase from the 9 hours of lessons in each subject which students received during previous years. In order to meet the guidelines set by the government and to deliver the increase in the number of teaching hours, the vast majority of Upper Sixth students will not be allocated lessons on a Wednesday. This has meant that enrichment activities will need to be temporarily suspended until some of the social distancing measures can be lifted. A reduced food service will be offered in the Common Room however students are encouraged to bring their own packed lunch wherever possible.

We would like to stress that the timetable will be under constant review and that alterations may need to be made to ensure that we comply with the latest guidance provided by the Department for Education. Therefore, students should not be participating in paid employment during the school day. Whilst we understand the numerous benefits to students engaging in part time employment these commitments should not be greater than 10-12 hours each week. We would like to take this opportunity to remind you that success at A-Level is also heavily dependent upon independent study outside of the classroom. Students are required to complete **6-7 hours of home learning** in each subject every week and it is vital that they have sufficient time to tackle this work.

For those students who require a quiet working environment or access to specialist equipment study venues will be available in school. However, in order to adhere to the guidelines provided by the Department for Education, registered study periods will not take place at the start of the term. Students are therefore encouraged to leave the school site when they are not required to attend tutor time or lessons. We would like to stress that silent study spaces will still be available for those students who require them.

The World Health Organisation published a statement on August 21st about children and face coverings. They now advise that “children aged 12 and over should wear a mask under the same conditions as adults, in particular when they cannot guarantee at least a 1-metre distance from others and there is widespread transmission in the area.”

In line with government guidance, in GFM schools where Year 7 and above are educated, we encourage face coverings to be worn by adults and pupils when moving around, such as in corridors and indoor communal areas where social distancing is difficult to maintain. 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.

We believe that students will now have access to face coverings due to their increasing use in wider society, and Public Health England has made available resources on how to make a simple face covering. However, where anybody is struggling to access a face covering, or where they are unable to use their face covering due to having forgotten it or it having become soiled or unsafe, we will have a small contingency supply available to meet such needs.

Some individuals are exempt from wearing face coverings. For example people who cannot put on, wear or remove a face covering because of a physical or mental illness or impairment, or disability, or if they are speaking to or providing assistance to someone who relies on lip reading, clear sound or facial expression to communicate. The same exemptions will apply in GFM schools, and our teachers and other staff will be sensitive to those needs.

We understand that some of these changes are significantly different from the usual programme of study offered in the Sixth Form. However, we are pleased to be able to provide students with their full allocation of teacher time from the beginning of this academic year. We appreciate that there will be concerns regarding the amount of face-to-face tuition lost during the school closures and would like to reassure you that teaching staff are working incredibly hard in preparation to support our students during this academic year.

We are looking forward to welcoming our students back, supporting them to achieve their goals and ensuring that they are fully prepared to tackle their crucial A-Level examinations next summer.

Your continued support is always appreciated by our school community. We will be writing to you shortly after the start of the term in order to provide you with further important updates.

Kind regards,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'R Dadd', written in a cursive style.

Mr R Dadd  
Head of Sixth Form