



Spalding High School



Weekly Bulletin 22.10.20

JUST IN CASE A CIRCUIT BREAKER IS ANNOUNCED - IMPORTANT - PLEASE READ CAREFULLY.

Although it seems unlikely that the Government will announce a national circuit breaker backed on to the October half term for England, we have, as part of our contingency plans organised the logistics of such an event for the High School. This first page of the weekly bulletin contains information for students and parents/carers **should** such a circuit breaker be announced over the half term holiday.

Will the school be shut if the government announce a circuit breaker backed onto the half term break?

We anticipate that the Government will not shut schools completely but keep them open to vulnerable students and children of key workers as happened in the first lockdown. If this is the case, school will remain open to these two groups of students only. In the first lockdown, students in these groups did not have to attend school, but schools were open to them if they needed or wanted to attend, or schools thought they should attend.

Can I attend school if I want to?

No – sadly not. The whole point of a national circuit breaker would be to reduce the number of contacts significantly so that we can collectively try to slow the spread of the infection. We know that you have been brilliant at getting back into school routines and habits but if the government does decide to issue a circuit breaker hopefully, it would only be short - maybe a week or two.

I am a key worker. I will need to ensure that my child attends school during a circuit breaker so that I can continue to do my job. What should I do?

Log on to the school website and go to the Covid-19 folder in the “Useful Links” menu. Here you will find an updated Key Worker letter (October 2020) and Key Worker Reply Slip. Providing you are working in one of the designated key sectors, complete the reply slip and return to the school enquiries email address enquiries@spaldinghigh.lincs.sch.uk. The enquiries email will be monitored during the half term break.

What is meant by “vulnerable” students?

These are children who could benefit from continued full time attendance due to a number of factors. Please see the Government guidance below for more details.

<https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/coronavirus-covid-19-maintaining-educational-provision/guidance-for-schools-colleges-and-local-authorities-on-maintaining-educational-provision>

Will school transport be running if a national circuit breaker is announced?

At the moment, this is an unknown. We would liaise with the Transport Team and share the information as we are given it.

How will remote teaching and learning be achieved if a national circuit breaker is announced?

Please see the attached letter from Mr Love.

How will I find out updates from the School?

As always we will keep you fully updated on developments via either In Touch messages or the school website. All letters we send home in relation to Covid are listed on the home page and then transferred to the Covid-19 folder. Documents that are no longer relevant have, with effect from this week, been removed from the Covid-19 folder to avoid confusion.

PE/Games and lockers after half term:

The PE department have been working hard to establish new routines for students to change for PE/Games at school. A risk assessment has been prepared and we are pleased to inform you that after half term students in Years 7–9 will be able to return to having two hours of PE/Games per week. We hope that Years 10 and 11 will be able to do the same in the near future. **All** students **must** return to wearing their full school uniform every day and change for PE/Games at school. The risk assessment for PE changing (number 26) can be found on the school website in the Covid-19 “Useful links” folder.

To allow students to keep their PE kits in school and to allow for the storage of winter coats we have arranged for all students to share a locker with **one** other student after half term. We have sufficient lockers within the year group zones for students to share a locker but not to have one individually.

The shared locker must **not** be locked and so must not be used for valuables. Keeping the lockers open will reduce the time that students need to spend in the locker areas and so reduce the risk of overcrowding.

We trust that all members of the school community will respect each other’s belongings. The lockers are not to be used for the storage of books or folders. There will not be enough room in the locker for this; we do not want students returning to the locker areas multiple times during the day and it is also essential that students keep the majority of their books at home in case they are required to self-isolate. May I remind everyone only to bring in what they need for the day and to use a ‘**day folder**’ rather than large separate subject A4 files. To keep the rooms clean we must keep surfaces clear and currently too many students are leaving folders and books in their form rooms.

As we will be returning to full school uniform/dress code every day please may I remind students that the full uniform list is on pages 40–41 in their planners. Everyone needs to adhere to the school uniform policy, please note the following in particular:

- **Coats** must be of a plain, dark colour and not emblazoned with logos. Unless it is very cold in school, coats should be stored in lockers. The heating is on and although the windows and doors remain open, it is not yet cold enough to wear coats in class. We shall of course, monitor the situation and will not allow students to be cold. We are recommending ‘base layers’ first and then a school hoodie over the school jumper if temperatures drop. The wearing of coats in class is only allowed if the temperatures really plummet.
- Y7-Y11 trousers must be tailored and of a **full** length
- False or beauty enhanced eyelashes are not allowed and artificial nails are not to be worn.
- Earrings are to be positioned in the ear lobe only and must be removed for PE.
- As we are returning to winter uniform, ties must be worn.

To accommodate lockers in the year group bubbles, the following changes (**in bold**) to Year 9 and 10 stairs/entrance and exit, arrangements will take effect after half term:

Year 9

Stairs/entrance/exit **back door to MFL block** & Back door and stairs into Technology block

Year 10

Stairs/entrance/exit **front automatic doors to Millennium block only and to access downstairs lockers the middle field-side door to the MFL block.**

Mrs Waldron
Deputy Headteacher

EARPHONES!

Students should remove earphones (or turn the music off) when they enter and leave the school site. This is to ensure that they can hear vehicles on the driveway and also instructions in the bus queue.

Careers Update:

Careers Support

We have been asked by Lincolnshire County Council to share the link below with students and parents. The Council has been working with local businesses, asking them to provide information to support young people in career planning. Links to the collated information about career opportunities available in Lincolnshire can be found here: <https://lincolnshire.fsd.org.uk/kb5/lincs/fsd/family.page?familychannel=1500>

Medic Mentor Virtual Conferences – Funding available for Spalding High school Students

Medic Mentor is a non-profit organisation, which helps students, gain an insight into competitive university courses and careers in medicine, veterinary medicine and dentistry. There are some upcoming courses in October and November which normally cost £50 but we have 30 funded places available for students in **Years 10, 11 and 12**. The dates of the virtual conferences are as follows:

Get into Medicine - Saturday 24th October, Saturday 31st October

Get into Veterinary - Saturday 21st November (Exclusive talk from Channel 5's Yorkshire Vet)

Get into Dentistry - Sunday 29th November

For details of the conferences and the funding code, please see the poster accompanying this week's bulletin.

October's Parents' Pack from Ask Apprenticeships

October's edition of the Parents' Pack is now available to read in the careers section of the school website and the link is below. This month's edition features an article comparing T Levels and apprenticeships and an insight into engineering apprenticeships.

<https://amazingapprenticeships.com/app/uploads/2020/10/Parent-Pack-October-2020.pdf>

University applications

The internal school deadline for university applications is 2nd November. Our Year 13 students who intend to go to university next year are finalising their applications and handing them in for references to be added. Some students who had an earlier deadline for competitive courses already have offers from universities, which is very motivational. Parents, please support your daughter/son over the next couple of weeks to finalise their personal statements.

Mrs Bushell

Careers Lead

FINALLY FOR TERM 1:

In many ways, it has been a thoroughly "normal" term. School attendance is incredibly high and students are milling around with their friends having a chat at break time. When walking the site, lessons can be heard, hands are up and levels of engagement are palpable. Students and staff are supporting each other. PE is happening on the school field again and practical lessons are going on across all of the specialist rooms. The canteen is back up and running and "chip Friday" is as popular as ever. After the quietness of Terms 4-6 last year, it has been fantastic to see the school being used as it should be. However, behind all of this normality is an undercurrent of "differentness". Covid seems to underline everything we do. It is always "there". Understandably, this is having an impact on all of us. Most obviously, for those who have to spend time at home due to self-isolation but also in less overt ways; anxiety for loved ones, our own health or for the uncertainty of the future. We are doing a lot of talking to help with these anxieties and we will get through this. Just keep talking to us. I am not surprised by the level of resilience, empathy and support we have seen this term but I am proud of everyone for how you/we have coped. Now time for a rest. Enjoy the half term. Relax and stay safe.

Mrs Anderson