

31 August 2020

Dear Parents and Carers

## **FULL RE-OPENING OF TAVISTOCK COLLEGE SEPTEMBER 2020**

With only a short while to go now until we re-open the school, this letter offers a very warm welcome to our new students and their families, and a sincere welcome back to all others. Term begins at 08:40 on Tuesday 08 September 2020 for Y7 and Y12. All students should attend from Wednesday 09 September.

Whilst we are very much looking forward to working with our students again, we are aware that many of you will be anxious about the re-opening plans. We can reassure you that all risk assessments suggested by the government have been undertaken, and we have taken all steps required of us to keep students and staff safe. Much of this was communicated to you earlier. If you have not yet read Mrs Jones's letter of 16 July please do take a few moments to go through it; <http://www.tavistockcollege.org/wp-content/uploads/2020/07/200716-End-of-Term-letter.pdf>

The school will operate differently in September. Whilst we have committed to offer the full curriculum, the main difference will be the teaching of students in year group communities within zones inside the school. This means that there are now designated entry and exit points for each year group:

Year 7 – Use the side door by the lift and stairs in the languages/mathematics block (form tutors will be available to signpost in person, so students should use the main footpath and be guided from there).

Year 8 – Use the door opposite PE into languages/mathematics and the stairs immediately to the right. Do not enter ground floor of the building.

Year 9 - Use the student entrance.

Year 10 - Use the door from the rear yard area onto the Geography corridor. (Opposite G3/G4).

Year 11 – Use the main school entrance.

Years 12/13 – Use the main entrance into the languages/mathematics block adjacent to DR1.

For their safety, all students are reminded to use footpaths and designated walk ways and not walk on driveways or through car parking areas.

Students must not use alternative access or exit points. We regret that parents will not be able to accompany their child(ren) into school and that cars will not be permitted forwards from beyond the point where the driveway intersects. If children have to be dropped off, drivers will be directed to turn left at the intersection. They should then circle the rear parking area (in front of the music teaching area), drop children off by the music area footpath and then leave by the remainder of the circular route. Drivers must not exit or park their vehicles. Please abide by on site speed limits.

Students using the school buses will be subject to enhanced safety protocols at the end of the school day. Students will wait (under supervision) on the periphery of the running track each afternoon and will be admitted, by school staff, onto buses in an orderly and safe manner. This applies equally to late buses and

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to students boarding public buses on the school site. All students will be expected to abide by seating plans on the buses.

Students who are catching buses into college must wear face masks while they are on bus whether this is a college bus or a public bus. Within lesson times, the other control strategies mean that face coverings are not required. However, the wearing of face coverings when moving between lessons is strongly encouraged. Whilst the WHO now recommends the use of face coverings for the over 12s as part of a broader strategy to control the virus, in the England the Department for Education currently does not advocate this within schools. Therefore, the use of face coverings within the school setting itself cannot be insisted upon at the present time. This policy will be subject to continual review in response to updated national guidance.

Parents and carers are reminded that attendance becomes compulsory. We will be obliged to use attendance enforcement strategies if students do not attend school without sickness or other exceptional leave of absence having been agreed. Parents should telephone the student absence line on the first day of any absence: 01822 614231 ext. 218

Students should wear full school uniform at all times. May I respectfully remind families that we have a stock of pre-loved, very good condition compliant uniform items (blazers, trousers, skirts etc.) available for purchase by means of a modest donation. Please contact [office@tavistockcollege.org](mailto:office@tavistockcollege.org) if you would like further information.

Students should abide by the annex to the behaviour policy at all times from September until otherwise advised. <http://www.tavistockcollege.org/wp-content/uploads/2020/07/180207-Behaviour-for-Learning-Policy-July-2020.pdf>

May I end with one final matter for your consideration? If you think you may be eligible for Free School Meals assistance I urge you to make a claim for such as soon as possible. You can check eligibility and then apply online if you do qualify via the following link <https://www.devon.gov.uk/educationandfamilies/school-information/school-meals>

Once again we look forward to welcoming everyone back to school. Please do contact your child(ren's) Head(s) of Year in the first instance if you have any queries or require further information.

Many thanks, in anticipation, for your support.

Yours Sincerely

Barbara Manning  
Vice Principal