



Ashfield Girls' High School
Holywood Road
Belfast
BT4 2LY

Principal: Mrs Louise Hanvey BSc (Hons) PGCE, PQHNI, PGDH

26 March 21

Return to School Building: Years 8 – 14

Dear Parent / Carer

We are anticipating that we will welcome your daughter back into the school building on Monday 12 April 21, subject to Department of Education review.

The planned arrangements for her return are as follows:

School start time:

Year 8 – Main entrance – 8.40am
Year 9 – Main entrance – 8.45am
Year 10 – Main entrance – 8.50am
Year 11 – Pupil entrance – 8.40am
Year 12 – Pupil entrance – 8.45am
Year 13 – Dance Studio entrance – 8.40am
Year 14 – Dance Studio entrance – 8.45am

School finish time:

Year 8 – Main entrance – 3.05pm (Friday 1.10pm)
Year 9 – Main entrance – 3.10pm (Friday 1.15pm)
Year 10 – Main entrance – 3.15pm (Friday 1.20pm)
Year 11 – Pupil entrance – 3.15pm (Friday 1.25pm)
Year 12 – Pupil entrance – 3.20pm (Friday 1.30pm)
Year 13 – Dance Studio entrance – 3.15pm (Friday 1.15pm)
Year 14 – Dance Studio entrance – 3.20pm (Friday 1.20pm)

Transport: Belfast Bus Company Buses will continue to operate, as normal. Translink services are available, and it is advised that you check on their website or app for up to date information.

Uniform: Full school uniform is required. If your daughter experiences any difficulties (i.e. incorrect size) with her uniform, please contact the school office and we will aim to help.

Break: Break will take place in the pupil's period 1 classroom between 10.00am – 10.20am. Pupils need to bring their own break.

Canteen: The canteen will operate, as normal, during Junior and Senior lunches.

Lunch: Lunch will take place between 11.45am and 1.05pm.

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Year 8 – Canteen – 11.45am – 12.20pm
Year 9 – Atrium (Reception side) – 11.50am – 12.25pm
Year 10 (10S, 10V and 10B) – Atrium (canteen side) – 11.50 – 12.25pm
Year 10 (10T and 10H) – Atrium (canteen side) – 12.20pm – 12.55pm
Year 11 – Canteen – 12.20pm – 12.55pm
Year 12 – Atrium – 12.25pm – 1.00pm
Year 13 – Sixth Form Spaces – 12.25pm – 1.00pm
Year 14 – Sixth Form spaces – 12.30pm – 1.05pm

Health and Safety: The routines around health and safety remain the same. Pupils will be regularly encouraged to wash their hands, use hand sanitiser and refrain from sharing items.

Face coverings: The Department of Education require face coverings to be worn during the routine school day. It is suggested that due to the use of face coverings throughout the school day, disposable masks may be a preferred and more hygienic option. We will have a supply of disposable masks for pupils who may misplace theirs.

Parents and carers are also encouraged to wear face coverings when waiting to collect their daughters.

It is now a legal requirement for all post primary pupils to wear a face covering on dedicated school transport and public transport.

Illness: Public Health Agency advice still applies. If your daughter has a new persistent cough, temperature or loss of her sense of smell, please do not send her to school, seek medical advice. If a pupil becomes unwell in school, we will contact you to make arrangements.

Sixth Form: Sixth Form are encouraged to bring their own device, where possible. Sixth Form may leave school, if they wish, after they have finished their last lesson for the day.

Testing: The Department of Education and the Department of Health have launched a Lateral Flow Test (LFT) Programme in all schools across Northern Ireland. This programme is currently open to all staff who work within the school and Year 12-14 pupils. It is voluntary. The lateral flow tests are complete at home and are self-testing (completed independently at home). A letter and consent form was given to Year 12-14 on Wednesday 24 March 2021. There is currently no guidance on the roll out of the programme to different year groups.

I am aware of the many concerns that both parents and pupils have about returning to the school building. Please be assured that we will continue to consider your daughter's wellbeing and provide support. If you have any concerns about your daughter, please contact her Form Teacher or Head of Progress.

Thank you for your support.

Beverley Cripps
Head of Pastoral Care / Assistant Vice Principal

