

Academic year 2020-21 - Return to School FAQs

RETURN TO SCHOOL ARRANGEMENTS

Why isn't the College opening full time like some of the other schools across Dubai?

Unfortunately the popularity of our school means that our student roll is full. The rules of social distancing means that we are unable to fit all of our students in the College at the same time. Some of the less established schools across Dubai are not full and it is this that provides them with greater flexibility.

Is there an option for 100% learning in school for all students?

In Key Stage 4 and 5, all students will be in College full time. In Key Stage 3, students will be in College 50% of the time until further notice.

Can I sign my child up for 1 month of distance learning rather than 2, and from October on choose hybrid?

Unfortunately not, for planning reasons we have to keep groups static. We understand that there may be exceptional circumstances where a child begins their education onsite and for reasons out of their control will need to continue learning from home, these cases will be dealt with individually by each Head of Year once the academic year has begun.

Would I be able to change my decision throughout the school year, if after a while I wanted my child to return to school in real life and vice versa?

We ask that parents sign up for an 8 week period and that each 8 week period, parents review what they feel is working for their family and either opt in to 'on site' or 'at home' learning. Our aim is to open the college fully, as soon as possible, until then, we will adapt school policies and procedures according to KHDA and Ministry of Health guidelines.

When does the 50% onsite learning end for Key Stage 3 (Years 7-9)?

We await updates from both the Ministry of Health and the KHDA for approval to open full time. As soon as we are permitted to open as a school full time, we will do so.

If my child is in Year 10 or 11 can they do 60% of the week in the College and 40% at home?

Unfortunately we cannot offer this option. For Key Stage 4 students we are offering 100% 'on site learning' or 100% remote 'at home learning'. If a student signs up for remote learning then this would last for an 8 week period.

Will there be any options for parents who are teachers to send their child in full time?

No, we want to provide access to onsite learning for all of our students, in order to do this, we have to rotate Key Stage 3 students in and out of the school. If we were to prioritise the children of certain professions, this would mean another student losing out.

Is Induction day compulsory?

Yes if you are intending to learn 'on site'. In order to protect all our students and staff, we have to spend time with our students on the first day, sharing new protocols and procedures and preparing them holistically for the changes ahead.

What date do returning students start school (regardless of in school or remote learning)?

All students start back on **Tuesday 1 of September**, please see letter for shortened timings. School returns to normal timings on the **Wednesday 2 September at 7:45am** (if your child is in Key stage 3, this first week back, will be week A).

Do students have to wear school uniform?

Yes, all students will be expected to wear school uniform. The only exception is on days where students have an allocated PE lesson, in which case they will attend school in their JC PE kit (Kukri or Surridge polo shirt and shorts/skort along with trainers). If a student does not have a JC PE kit, they will attend school on their PE days in normal school uniform bringing a pair of trainers to change into at the start of the PE lesson. We advise that uniforms/PE kits are washed regularly for the protection of the college community.

If students do not have JC PE kit yet, can they wear other sports wear for their PE lessons?

No, as there is currently no access to the changing rooms, students will wear either JC kit to school (Kukri or Surridge polo shirt and shorts/skort with trainers) on their PE lesson days or they will need to wear their normal school uniform and bring trainers to change into at the start of the PE lesson.

TEACHING, LEARNING AND ASSESSMENT

What is the difference between Week A and Week B?

Week A and Week B rotate throughout the term for example: Week A begins in the week commencing 30th of August (not including the separate days for induction of new students) therefore Week B will commence in the week beginning 6th of September.

What does on-site remote learning look like for Year groups 10 and 11?

All Key Stage 4 and 5 students will be taught live by their subject teacher, there will be no on-site remote learning.

In the case of online classes will the teachers give live sessions similar to in-person classes or will it be recorded videos uploaded?

All lessons will be taught live. If it is your child's turn to learn from home, the lesson will be broadcast via a live feed where appropriate, or through other live interaction so that they can take part in the lesson as if they were in College.



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How are the learning groups organised?

As per the timetabled groups for the Sixth Form. We have small groups in the Sixth Form that enables us to teach full groups.

KS4 is still being analysed to see if we can accommodate 100% live teaching. However, GCSE students will be in college 100% of the time and the aim is to maximise their live teaching, i.e. the proportion of lessons where they are face to face in a room with subject specialists.

In Year 7, 8 and 9 we are moving to small groups of 15, hence the move to 50% schooling, to ensure we have social distancing within the capacity of space available to us.

KS3 (Years 7, 8 and 9) will therefore be set by Science and taught in smaller groups. These groups will be determined by the house groupings Fihri and Gibran or Majid and Sina groups in KS3 will therefore comprise of students from Fihri/Gibran or Majid/Sina.

How will my child do tests if they are remote learning?

Our teaching staff are incredibly skilled in what they do and will summatively assess student progress when required. Formative assessment is an ongoing process providing teachers with an in-depth understanding of how your child is progressing and occurring without the need for tests. Your child will not be disadvantaged by our new learning environment and we will continue to adapt our teaching methods in order to cater to the current circumstances.

Will my child be given homework?

Yes, in order to support school learning and to develop and maintain good habits, homework will be set. We understand that some students may struggle with these changes and find it hard keeping up with their homework and we will work closely alongside these students for support.

How are groups formed i.e. based on last year's performance report or an assessment? Would children be in one learning group for all core subjects rather than in separate learning groups for each core subject?

KS3 groups will be in smaller groups of 15 based on their side of the year and their house, so F1 and G1 will be grouped in classes of 15, M1 and S1 grouped together, F2 and G2 and M2 and S2. These groups are broadly mixed-ability. The only exception to these 'teaching bubbles' will be top set Year 9 Maths groupings, who will come out of their bubbles for those 4 periods a week and taught together in a separate room.

In exam year groups students will be taught based in blocks on their option choices for optional subjects, and in their sets for core subjects.

HEALTH AND SAFETY

How will we prevent overcrowding of students at the school gates when school starts?

On a regular school day, we have never experienced overcrowding at the school gates, our students tend to arrive at the College over a long period of time, unlike primary school 'drop offs' where students are younger and require greater supervision and are therefore given specific times to arrive. We have purposely staggered the start times on the 1st of September to monitor student entry and review our procedures. Jumeirah College staff monitor student entry every day and will continue to do so, they will manage any over crowding should it occur and the entry and exit process will be reviewed and altered accordingly should we feel that any of our students are in danger.

If there is a Covid-19 positive student, what happens then?

In the first instance, the medical team will be notified to evaluate whether emergency services are required. All staff and students that have been in contact with this student (within their classroom bubble) must self-isolate for 14 days, as should all members of their household. Any member of these households that begin showing symptoms during this isolation period, should get tested immediately. If tested as positive, they should further isolate for 14 days from the date of receiving their test result; and also not return to school after this period unless their symptoms have ceased. Any staff members that have tested positive will be unable to return to the school site until they have received a negative test result. The medical and operations teams would follow company protocol in reviewing further measures to ensure safety of all staff and students.

Will students have access to drinking water during the school day?

No, students will not be able to use the water dispensers/fountains in order to fill up drinks bottles nor will they be able to purchase it from anywhere in the school. Therefore, they will need to bring enough water each day from home. We recommend at least 1.5 litres per student, and possibly more on the days where students have PE lessons.

Will students have access to the canteen during the school day?

No, students will not be able to purchase food from the canteen and therefore, will need to bring a packed lunch each day with them. These should be in line with the school policy of no nuts or traces of.

Can students leave their bubbles and mix with their friends during break and lunch times?

No, we have to restrict movement and contact of students according to the guidelines provided.

How can I arrange meetings with my child's teachers?

Due to restrictions with visitors on the school premises, all meetings with JC staff should be carried out online. This will also apply to parent teacher conferences for the foreseeable future and will be reviewed regularly as we are notified of any guideline changes.

My child has a doctors/dentist/physiotherapy appointment during the school day. What do I do?

Our College policy is that all appointments should take place outside of school hours. In the event that a student must attend an appointment during school hours they will not be allowed back on site unless they have showered and changed their clothes as per the KHDA guidelines.

How is the school ensuring that there is social distancing being maintained within classes and outside classes?

All classrooms have been set up to ensure that 1.5m social distancing is maintained (as per KHDA guidelines) with floor and table markings, as well as spaced out desks and seating. Students will remain in their classrooms during break and lunchtimes to minimise social contact. Key Stage 3 students will remain in the same student bubble and classroom throughout the day. Key Stage 4 and 5 students will move to different classrooms for different lessons. Disinfecting equipment will be in each classroom to ensure that desks are sanitised between use. Lessons will be paperless (unless paper has been printed and left for 72 hours) and will not involve any group or shared activities. Masks will also be mandatory for staff and students at all times. All student gatherings such as assemblies are suspended until further notice and will be carried out remotely.

How is the school ensuring that the teachers who are physically present in the school are being monitored?

All staff will have taken a PCR test before returning to school as required by the DHA. All individuals who enter the building are temperature checked and denied entry if their temperature is too high. All staff know that if they are showing signs and symptoms, they should not attend College and if they have come into contact with anybody who has tested positive for Covid-19.

In case of any Covid-19 case that may arise in the school even after precautions are maintained, would this change the way the classes would take place in future?

The College will follow the protocols and procedures as advised by GEMS Health and Safety and the KHDA. Classes will be adapted to meet the needs of all students where necessary, to ensure the safety of all stakeholders.