

Y13 Students,

I hope you're enjoying your summer break and that life has started to feel more normal again for you.

This document contains essential information about the changes we have made to allow college to open in September. Those changes are significant and there are many of them. Please take some time over the summer to read this document, discuss it with your friends and family, and contact me at [joel.wirth@thomroth.ac.uk](mailto:joel.wirth@thomroth.ac.uk) with any questions you might have.

We are aware that many of these changes are fundamental and will impact significantly upon your experiences of college. We're disappointed that some of what makes the experience of TRC so special – most notably the opportunities to mix socially with so many like-minded young people – has had to be amended in order to allow us to open as fully as we are proposing. However, we hope you will understand our reasons for doing so.

### The Basics

**If you have any symptoms (new, persistent cough, loss of sense of taste and/ or smell, high temperature) you MUST NOT come into college.**

**You must observe the highest possible standards of personal hygiene.** You must wash your hands using soap or use hand sanitiser. You must cover your mouth when you cough. If you need to sneeze, you must sneeze into the crook of your elbow. If you need to blow your nose, you must use a tissue and you must bin the tissue immediately.

### Lessons and learning

**How will the college day change? See timetable below**

There will be a two-week timetable. This means that your Thursdays and Fridays will be different week to week. Monday to Wednesday are the same both weeks. Please see the timetable attached to the end of this document. Y13 blocks are shown in green.

	<b>What used to happen?</b>	<b>From the start of next term</b>
<b>Number of lessons a day</b>	4	<b>2</b>
<b>Start and end of college day</b>	9:00am to 4:15pm	<b>9:20am – 3:20pm</b>
<b>Lesson length</b>	90 minutes	<b>150 minutes (plus a 10 minute break)</b>
<b>Number of lessons per block per week</b>	3 (6 in a fortnight)	<b>Different in different weeks 3 in a fortnight</b>
<b>Time spent in lessons</b>	4 ½ hours a week	<b>Equivalent of 3 ¾ hours a week</b>
<b>Time spent studying independently</b>	4 to 5 hours a week	<b>Increased by 45 minutes</b>
<b>Support sessions</b>	20 minutes per week	<b>Flexible. Delivered after college via Microsoft Teams</b>

'Free' time	LRC, study area and canteen open	No 'free' time on college site. Students leave site once lessons are finished (see below)
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Week 1/ Week 2	
Mon	<b>Block A/ A</b> 1 10:15 2 10:25 End 11:40 Lunch 11:40 – 12:30 <b>Block C/ C</b> 1 1:45 2 1:55 End 3:10 Y12 Base Start 9:00
	Y13 <b>Block A/ A</b> 1 10:35 2 10:45 End 12:00 Lunch 12:00 – 12:40 <b>Block C/ C</b> 1 2:05 2 2:15 End 3:20 Base Start 9:20 Start 12:40
Tue	<b>Block E/ E</b> 1 10:15 2 10:25 End 11:40 Lunch 11:40 – 12:30 <b>Block B/ B</b> 1 1:45 2 1:55 End 3:10 Y12 Base Start 9:00
	Y13 <b>Block E/ E</b> 1 10:35 2 10:45 End 12:00 Lunch 12:00 – 12:40 <b>Block B/ B</b> 1 2:05 2 2:15 End 3:20 Base Start 9:20 Start 12:40
Weds	<b>Block D/ D</b> 1 10:15 2 10:25 End 11:40 Lunch 11:40 – 12:30 <b>Block F/ F</b> 1 1:45 2 1:55 End 3:10 Y12 Base Start 9:00
	Y13 <b>Block D/ D</b> 1 10:35 2 10:45 End 12:00 Lunch 12:00 – 12:40 <b>Block F/ F</b> 1 2:05 2 2:15 End 3:20 Base Start 9:20 Start 12:40
Thurs	<b>Block A/ E</b> 1 10:15 2 10:25 End 11:40 Lunch 11:40 – 12:30 <b>Block B/ F</b> 1 1:45 2 1:55 End 3:10 Y12 Base Start 9:00
	Y13 <b>Block A/ E</b> 1 10:35 2 10:45 End 12:00 Lunch 12:00 – 12:40 <b>Block B/ F</b> 1 2:05 2 2:15 End 3:20 Base Start 9:20 Start 12:40
Fri	<b>Block C/ D</b> 1 10:15 2 10:25 End 11:40 Leave site Staff lunch/ travel time 12:30 – 1:30 pm Designated CPD time Faculty & staff meetings Start 9:00
	Y13 <b>Block C/ D</b> 1 1 2 End 12:00 Base Start 9:20

3:30 – 4:20 Support sessions

### What happens between lessons?

Only those students who have lessons both morning and afternoon will be permitted to remain on site over lunchtime. You cannot use the canteen, LRC or Study Area or outside spaces as a social space.

### How large will classes be?

Classes will run at full capacity from the start of the year and all students will be expected to attend all classes as normal. We will track attendance and punctuality as normal.

### What about tutorials and student briefings?

Student briefings and other key information will be delivered on-line. You will be expected to engage fully with the materials that are shared with you. Tutors will monitor your engagement. Briefings will be shared with all students at 10:00am every Monday morning.

Tutorials will appear on your timetable. We will review the best means of holding tutorials. If circumstances allow, these will be face-to-face meetings. If not, tutorials will be delivered using Microsoft Teams. Your tutor will contact you to schedule a suitable time.

### How will lessons be different?

Teachers are working hard to ensure that learning continues to be engaging and effective. However, there will be changes. There is likely to be a reduction in the amount of group work and you are more likely to find yourself sitting in classroom where desks are in rows, facing the front. Your teachers will not be able to come to your desk to support you with your work as they need to stay in their designated area at the front of the classroom (see below). Resources will need to be carefully managed because things being passed between teachers/ technicians and students present a risk of transmitting the virus. Your

teachers will explain to you how this will work in their classroom. However, you can imagine that such activities as practicals in science, music, photography, etc. will be impacted by this. In all classrooms, paper resources cannot be shared as they have previously been. This includes work which you submit. We will look to enhance the provision for students to submit work electronically. Where paper-based work has to be submitted (eg after a timed test in class or practice exam papers), teachers have been instructed to leave work untouched for four days before marking it to allow any virus to perish. This may cause a delay in the time it takes your teachers to return work to you.

### **What about learning from home/ distance learning/ additional self-directed learning?**

You will see that there has been a reduction in the amount of time you spend in face-to-face learning. You will have been used to having 6x90 minutes a fortnight (540 minutes = 9 hours) which is reduced to 3x150 = 450 minutes (7 ½ hours). This is to allow teachers to offer students online support sessions, in part to compensate for the difficulties teachers will face in providing feedback in lessons due to the need to observe a 2m distance.

This means that you will be expected to do more work from home. Currently, the expectation is that you will undertake an additional 4-5 hours of self-directed learning per block per week. This will increase by 45 minutes per week. As part of the time you spend in lessons, teachers will prepare you for the work you will be expected to do outside college.

As many of you have discovered during lockdown, having access to effective IT (both an appropriate device and adequate internet access) is crucial for students. If you feel that this will be an issue for you, you must inform college ([enquiries@thomroth.ac.uk](mailto:enquiries@thomroth.ac.uk)) as soon as possible. We will be providing you with training on Microsoft Office programs, including Teams and OneDrive, to support you with online learning. Please ensure that you have read and signed the Online Learning Agreement emailed in June.

### **Keeping yourself and others safe**

#### **How will Y12 and Y13 be kept apart?**

**'Bubbles'** - To allow us to open, we have re-structured the college to allow Y13 to form one 'bubble' – this is a term you might have heard on the news. It means that you will not come into close contact with anyone from outside Y13, your teachers and other staff who are supporting you.

**Bases** - You will see that the timetable has been constructed to keep year groups apart. However, there are occasions during the day when year groups share common time (before & after lessons, lunchtime, etc.). In order to keep you separated, we have re-designed the canteen and courtyard areas to create 'Bases' for each year group. The Y13 base will be in the canteen. Y13 students who arrive before 9:20 or who are staying in college over lunch can only sit in this designated area.

**Entrances** – We will also insist that you use different entrances to college. Y13 will need to enter through the back door of college, next to the sports hall. Only Y12 students will be allowed to enter through the main entrance. All students can exit the building through reception.

**Movement around college** – There will be a one-way system in operation from the start of the year. Staircases and corridors will be affected. The route around college will be marked by arrows. Please make sure you follow this system at all times.

### **How will teachers be kept safe?**

Teachers are more vulnerable than young people to the effects of Covid-19. As a result, all teachers will work from within designated areas of their classrooms, allowing a 2m buffer between them and the class. Students must not enter this area under any circumstances. This is the reason for some of the changes to classroom practice detailed above.

### **How will we be kept apart from other students in Y13?**

All students in Y13 will be in the same bubble. While this means you will not be kept 2m apart, in lessons or around college, we should all still be doing everything we can – staff and students - to minimise unnecessary contact. As a college, many of the changes we are announcing here (longer lessons, one-way systems, closure of LRC, etc.) explicitly seek to limit that contact.

### **Will students or teachers be expected to wear masks?**

The current government advice is that students should wear masks on public transport (see College Transport below). To avoid the spread of any possible infections coming into college, you are asked to remove your face mask once on college site. Any mask used on public transport must either be put in your bag (if reusable) or disposed of correctly into a bin/black bag (if disposable). However, there is no expectation that students wear masks in college. The same applies to teachers.

### **Other College services**

**The LRC** – This will remain closed until further notice. This is in line with the latest government advice. We will only re-open the LRC once it is safe to do so. If this causes you problems – especially with regards accessing IT – please inform college ([enquiries@thomroth.ac.uk](mailto:enquiries@thomroth.ac.uk)) as soon as possible.

**Study Hall** – We will be running a revised form of Study Hall from the start of term. Y12 and Y13 students will be kept apart in Study Hall.

**Catering** – We will be offering a limited hot meal menu and snack bar service to students staying in college. There will be no salad bar. Y13 will have their own designated servery for your exclusive use. If you choose to bring a packed lunch, you will be allowed to eat it in your base in the canteen. Students using this service must pay by contactless payment methods. Please contact us on [enquiries@thomroth.ac.uk](mailto:enquiries@thomroth.ac.uk) if this is likely to be a problem for you.

**Public Transport** - We understand that this remains a significant concern for many of you. The rules on travelling using public transport state that you must wear a mask. However, many of you are more concerned about your ability to catch buses where services are running at a reduced capacity. It is important, if you use a service bus, that you contact the operator for information on how that service will operate from the 25<sup>th</sup> August. You may need to build in additional travel time. See [www.travelsouthyorkshire.com](http://www.travelsouthyorkshire.com).

**Additional support for students using service buses** – We have decided to run an additional service this year. It will run directly from Rotherham Interchange to college. The Y13 only service will leave the interchange at 9:00am. We hope this will reduce the challenges of relying entirely on service buses.

**College Transport** – Students from both Y12 and Y13 using college bus services will need to wear masks when travelling to and from college.

College buses will continue to run. If you require further information on this service, please email [enquiries@thomroth.ac.uk](mailto:enquiries@thomroth.ac.uk). Please put 'College Bus Service' in the subject line of your message.

You will have many further questions, no doubt. I will email you again in a week's time with a further update on, among other things, the start of term. I will gladly provide responses to any questions you ask (email [joel.wirth@thomroth.ac.uk](mailto:joel.wirth@thomroth.ac.uk)) alongside that update.

**Joel Wirth**

Vice Principal