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**ELLIS  
GUILFORD  
SCHOOL**  
*Creative  
Education  
Trust*

Wednesday, 21<sup>st</sup> July 2021

Dear Parent/Carer,

I write to provide further information relating to the start of the new term in September.

### **Pupil Entrances and Exits**

From September, pupils will be able to use either of the two main school entrances, Bar Lane or Stockhill Circus, whichever is nearest to their home. Pupils in Year 9 using the Bar Lane entrance will use the one which leads to the tennis courts, to the side of the main entrance.

### **The School Day**

We have built in time for the pupils to line up in their year groups in between lessons. We want to minimise any loss of learning. Pupils should arrive no later than 8:35am where they will make their way to a Year Group Zone, where they line up. Their tutor time will be based in the nearest classrooms to their zone.

Please see the appendix at the end of this letter for the structure of the school day. All break and lunch times will remain the same. All pupils will line up in their year group zones as this year.

### **Year Hubs at The Ellis Guilford School**

The Year Hubs have worked well this year. We have received a lot of positive feedback about them throughout the year. They really support a calm and orderly start to the day as well as lessons. The pupils are used to them and we will continue with them from September. We recognise that subjects such as Science and Design require very specialist rooms. These will be available and fully open from September for all year groups to support better learning in practical based subjects.

The Year Hubs are as follows:

Year 7: Guilford Building, rear, bottom floor

Year 8: Side to the Dining Hall/Sports Centre/Ellis Building

Year 9: Tennis Courts/Gym/Ellis building



Year 10: Guilford Building, upper floor/Astroturf

Year 11: Plaza/Main Hall/Ellis building

Form tutor period will take place in these areas, together with lesson transitions, beginning of the day, break and lunch time. During October half term, we are installing additional sheltering areas for Year 7 and Year 10 Year Hubs.

### **Expectations: Uniform and Behaviour**

We have been very proud of the way pupils have worn their uniform this year. Again, we have had many positive comments about our uniform. Thanks to all parents and carers for ensuring your child arrives at school appropriately dressed, looking smart, ready to learn.

From September, our expectations will remain as high as ever in regard to dress code. Mr Gissendorf will write to you with more details.

Our high expectations in relation to behaviour has resulted in a school where learning is calm and orderly. There remain areas which we want to improve. In the classroom every child has a right to learn without unwanted interruption from other pupils. Whilst we deal with this effectively, we will increase the expectation in the classroom for all pupils. Of course, we all make wrong choices and make mistakes. Pupils will be given the chance to make the right choice. If this isn't working, pupils will be removed and spend 5 lessons in our new Reflection area. Here they will continue to study English, Maths, Science and other subjects. Low level disruption which can lead to bullying continues to be unacceptable and the school demonstrates a zero policy towards it. Mr Gissendorf will write to you with more details.

More importantly, we want to continue to reward pupils. This year our clear rewards system, based on Start points has worked really well. Fabulous Friday works well too. We will continue to focus on rewarding pupils.

To support and encourage positive praise and rewards, we are installing a TV platform throughout the school, including 5 outdoor televisions in each Hub, so that we can communicate more effectively with pupils, highlighting in particular the successes and achievements of our pupils.

### **'Ambitions at Ellis' and 'Grab and Go'**

'Ambitions at Ellis' is the new name of our Dining Hall. Over the summer we are having it re-branded. 'Ambitions at Ellis' will be available to all pupils on a weekly rota. We are also working hard with our catering provider to make sure our provision continues to improve. We have a new chef in place, and she is very



keen to make sure our food offer is nutritional, varied and offers menus which increases uptake of school food.

Each Year Hub will continue to have an eating pod from which a variety of foods will be served. From September, we will offer a pre ordering system. This will hopefully reduce the size of the queues.

We are continuing to invest in pupil social and eating areas. We will have installed three 20 metre canopies in the Year 7 and Year 10 Hub to provide improved facilities.

### **Learning at The Ellis Guilford**

We have spent a lot of time revising all schemes of learning so that they challenge pupils to learn more effectively. These will begin in September and all information will be available for you to see on the school's website.

We are introducing a new homework policy where all pupils will be required to complete 1 hour of homework each evening based on two subjects. Every group in the school will have their own timetable which again will be shared with you. The homework will be based on the Knowledge Organiser which contains much of the learning required for any topic being studied.

We are also introducing a 'Pathway' model for our learners from September. Following a review of each child, we will place them into a pathway: the accelerate pathway will offer additional support where pupils will be taught in smaller groups; the Ambition pathway will be for the majority of pupils, where teachers will teach to the 'top' so that learners make more rapid progress; the Elevate pathway where pupils' learning will be further extended. Pupil reviews will take place on a termly basis, to allow pupil movement between pathways. At our school, the learning of everyone matters and we want to do the very best for each pupil. We believe the pathways will support this.

There will be a reduced focus on Chromebooks, an increased focus on Knowledge Organisers and an increased focus on pupil's writing in their books, including extended pieces of writing.

Learning outside of the classroom is important in enhancing a child's education. I am delighted to announce that from September we will offer all new Year 7 the opportunity to learn a musical instrument.

We know that music supports improvements in all subject areas. Not only will this be fun, but will help pupils to socialise, make new friends as well as learn!



There continues to be changes at the school, including at Senior Leadership level where we say goodbye to Mr Brooke and Ms Fuller. Other staff moving on to seek new opportunities are Ms Tran, Mr Varley, Ms. Claine, Ms. White (Science), Mr Millington, Ms. Stock, Mr Bird and Mr Cook. We wish them all the very best and thank them for their contribution to the school.

We have, of course, recruited some excellent teaching staff to the school and I will introduce them to you from September onwards.

The journey of the new Ellis Guilford is an exciting one. Rarely have I come across such talented young people in a school community. They are a credit and we look forward to taking a further step next year in helping them to realise their potential.

Thank you for your continued help and support over the year.

A handwritten signature in blue ink, appearing to read 'Chris Keen'.

Mr Chris Keen  
Principal



**Ellis Guilford School**  
**School Day 2021/22**

<i>Period</i>	<i>Time</i>	<i>Change over times</i>	<i>Location/travel time</i>
<i>Line up</i>	<b>8.40am</b>		
<i>Registration/assembly</i>	<b>8.40am-9.00am (5-minute warning bell)</b>	<b>5 minutes</b>	<b>Zone to zone</b>
<i>Period 1</i>	<b>9.00am-10.00am</b>		
<i>changeover</i>	<b>10.00am- 10.10am</b>	<b>10 minutes</b>	<b>Classroom to zone</b>
<i>Period 2</i>	<b>10.10am-11.10am</b>		
<i>Break 1</i>	<b>11.10am-11.30am (5-minute warning bell)</b>	<b>5 minutes</b>	<b>Zone to zone</b>
<i>Period 3</i>	<b>11.30am-12.30pm</b>		
<i>Changeover</i>	<b>12.30pm- 12.40pm</b>	<b>10 minutes</b>	<b>Classroom to zone</b>
<i>Period 4</i>	<b>12.40pm-1.40pm</b>		
<i>Lunch</i>	<b>1.40pm-2.10pm (5-minute warning bell)</b>	<b>5 minutes</b>	<b>Zone to zone</b>
<i>Period 5</i>	<b>2.10pm-3.10pm</b>		