

Dear Parent / Carer

I hope that this letter finds you well. We are looking forward to welcoming your son/daughter back to the Academy next week. You have already received specific information with regards to the plans we have made for September and the start dates for each year group and this information is also on our website and below.

School will reopen on Tuesday 8<sup>th</sup> September. In order to ensure that all students have the opportunity to adapt to the many changes outlined above and to have the opportunity to adopt our new routines, it is very important that each year group has the chance to attend separately during the first week of term. We will welcome each year group back for **one day only during the first week. All students will then return full time from Monday 14<sup>th</sup> September.**

- Monday 7<sup>th</sup> September – INSET Day – no students in school
- Tuesday 8<sup>th</sup> September – Year 9 only (Year 12 attend for enrolment appointments)
- Wednesday 9<sup>th</sup> September – Year 8 & Year 11 only
- Thursday 10<sup>th</sup> September – Year 10 only
- Friday 11<sup>th</sup> September – Year 7 & Year 13 only

Please can I draw your attention to the Re-opening Handbook on our website which contains answers to questions we have received over the summer holidays. We are excited to be moving back to seeing our students in person and have worked extremely hard to put measures in place to keep everyone as safe as possible. Our aim is to do everything we can so we can continue to provide in-person education throughout the 2020/21 academic year.

You have already seen the information we have provided about the changes we have made. These include:

- Zoned areas for year group bubbles
- Limited movement of students, with the majority of lessons being taught in the same area of school and staff moving to students
- Staggered start / finish times
- Staggered lunch and breaks
- Additional cleaning of frequently touched surfaces
- Additional hand sanitiser stations

We have continued to review the government guidance over the summer, including the most recent information on face coverings in schools.

As part of our plans to keep students and staff as safe as possible, we will **require** the use of face coverings in corridors and communal areas by staff, students and visitors at our Academy.

This includes:

- Entering the Academy and until students are seated in their classroom\*
- When moving around the corridors

- Whilst queuing for food at lunch times\*
- Leaving the Academy and until they have exited the Academy buildings

\*Once students are seated in their lunch/break area or classroom, they can remove their face mask.

Staff will also wear face coverings (visor or face mask) whilst moving on the corridors and on duty in communal areas. Students and staff will also maintain a social distance of 2m.

To support us in following government guidance, **please ensure your son / daughter comes to school with a face covering**. This needs to cover the nose and mouth and will need to be appropriate for school. We will provide plastic bags for face coverings to be safely stored in during lesson time and when they are not required.

Whereas, I am completely aware that the wearing of face coverings is a very contentious and difficult issue; my strong feeling, and that of our Senior Leadership Team and Trust teams is that if there is something that we can do collectively to further safeguard our community, our students and our families - then it is vital that we do it. It is also vital that we do it now, not when R rates increase or local lockdowns are called, but immediately.

The government has provided details of exemptions to the requirement to wear face coverings. More information can be found at [face-coverings-in-education](#). Please contact your son/daughter's Progress Leader if they will not be able to wear a face covering for one of the reasons stated in the guidance.

We will keep this policy under review as the autumn term progresses.

Our aim, is to welcome all of our students back to school as safely as possible. We understand the anxieties of students who have not been able to attend school for several months and those of their parents / carers. We recognise that, like us, you will be eager to see your child benefit from these plans and would like to thank you again for your continued support. If you have any further concerns please don't hesitate to contact us.

Finally, please find below additional Government guidance for parents/carers which you may find useful.

**Additional Information:**

Government information for parents and carers is provided at [Parent carer guidance](#) .


Please continue to follow this advice if your child or a member of your household are showing Covid 19 symptoms.

In particular:

- Do not send your child to school if:
  - they are showing [coronavirus \(COVID-19\) symptoms](#)
  - someone in their household is showing symptoms
- [Arrange a test](#) if you or your child develops symptoms. Inform us of the results.
- If the test is positive, follow [guidance for households with possible or confirmed coronavirus \(COVID-19\) infection](#), and engage with the NHS Test and Trace process.

This will help us to minimise any interruption to teaching and learning in the Academy and help us to provide appropriate remote support for any children with symptoms.

Yours faithfully



Miss L Proctor  
Principal