



26th August 2020

Details for School Opening to All Pupils from September

Dear Parents/Carers,

We hope this letter finds you and your family well and that you've had an enjoyable Summer. I last wrote to you on the 23rd July 2020 with brief details regarding reopening and as indicated, these are now available on our new website. Please visit the website regularly as this will continue to be updated since guidance, information and experience will enable us to refine our plans still further.

Information for the Reopening of the Academy to all Students

The plan for the opening of the academy to all students has taken on board the guidance published by the government on July 2nd 2020.

Whilst it is not possible to ensure a totally risk-free environment, the office of National Statistics analysis on coronavirus related deaths linked to occupations, suggests that student and staff in educational settings tend not to be at any greater risk from the disease than many other occupations. They say there is no evidence that children transmit the disease any more than adults do.

We will minimise, where possible, the number of contacts that a student has during the school day, outside of their year group or Sixth Form 'bubble' to help reduce the risk of transmission in school. All our protocols and risk assessments have been updated for September in order that you can be confident we are managing risk effectively and these will be made available via the website next week.

The guidance states that attendance to schools will be mandatory for all pupils from September. In line with Government guidance the academy will be implementing a staggered start and end of the day for all year groups.



The following information is taken from the academy website to help you prepare for next week.

When do students return to school in September?

- Year 7 – Wednesday 2nd September
- Year 11 – Wednesday 2nd September
- Year 12 - Wednesday 2nd September
- Year 8 – Thursday 3rd September
- Year 9 – Thursday 3rd September
- Year 10 - Thursday 3rd September
- Year 13 – Thursday 3rd September

Time and location to arrive and leave school

	Year 7	Year 8	Year 9	Year 10	Year 11*	6 th Form
Arrival time	8:30 - 8:45			8:45 - 9:00		
Entrance	Main/Maths	Main to Quad		D&T	Health Centre	Main
	Managed by SLT and Pastoral Team					
End of school time	15:00			15:15 (*Y11 - Afternoon Catch Up Intervention)		
Exit	Maths	Quad to Main		D&T	Health Centre	Main
	Managed by SLT and Pastoral Team					

A map indicating the location of the entrances will be posted on the website on Tuesday.

How will students be grouped?

Year 7, 8 and 9 students will be in tutor group bubbles for lessons during the school day wherever possible and will remain in the same classroom with teachers moving rooms. In year 9, children will be grouped for their core subjects but will remain within the security of their year group bubble. The guidance from the DFE for year group bubbles will be



maintained at all times. Year 10 and 11 will each be year group bubbles and although we will avoid mixing between the year groups and will maintain

“mini bubbles” for most subjects, there will be some movement of students between classes during the academy day to allow students to study their chosen options. In Key Stage 5, due to the small number of students and joint year 12 and year 13 classes in some subjects, our sixth form will be classed as one bubble.

Students will be clearly told in the first week around the required expectations, procedures, and maintaining the 1m+ social distancing guidelines. In particular, catering will be reviewed and re-sited in a temporary but accessible location and there will be very clear procedures around toilet use to ensure all students have the required access, whilst recognising the need to maintain the integrity of the year group bubbles in order to keep your children safe.

What about tutor time?

Year 7, 8 and 9 will have tutor time at the start of the school day.

Year 10, 11, 12 and 13 will have tutor time at the end of the school day.

Tutor time will be with the teacher taking the class at that time.

How will catering work?

To ensure that students from different year groups are not mixing with each other during the academy day we will be operating a different system for catering facilities on site.

Further details will be released at the start of term. This will include a temporary menu and relocation of the facilities to ensure safe access. We operate a ‘cashless’ system at the academy and therefore no cash payments are accepted on site. All students purchasing from the academy menu will therefore need to ensure that funds are credited beforehand as is already the case. Students eligible for free school meals will not need to add credit to their accounts. Any students wishing to bring in a packed lunch will still be able to do so.

Will there be additional cleaning?

There will be significant additional cleaning taking place throughout the day. We will be following government guidance around:

- Regular cleaning of settings
- Minimising contacts and mixing as best we can
- Frequent hand cleaning and good respiratory hygiene practices



We will make every attempt as a school to encourage children and staff to adhere to social distancing, however, we cannot guarantee this. We have to accept that, despite rigorous risk assessment and careful planning and consideration, our students will not always distance themselves from each other or the staff.

What about facemasks?

Whilst it is not compulsory, all staff and students are encouraged to wear masks or face coverings in corridors, canteens and other indoor, communal areas. Students will not be allowed to wear face masks/coverings in lessons.

Masks are not to be worn in outside, external areas of academies.

Face coverings must be appropriate in design. Where this is not the case, an alternative will be provided for that day only. The Principal will decide what is and is not appropriate in each academy.

All staff will be provided with a visor which they are can wear at any time as they see fit. Trust staff who travel to multiple academies will wear visors when visiting each academy.

All students are recommended to carry face coverings as they will need to wear them on transport and in any shops they visit on the way to and from the academy.

All students will be given a tutorial on the safe use of face coverings on their first day at the academy and should have a sealed plastic bag in which they can safely and hygienically store them after correctly folding them when not wearing them outside or during lessons, as stipulated within the updated guidance.

Will full school uniform be expected?

Students should attend in full school uniform. **Government guidance states:**

All schools to return to their usual uniform policies in the autumn term. Uniform can play a valuable role in contributing to the ethos of a school and setting an appropriate tone.

Uniforms/Clothing does not need to be cleaned any more often than usual, nor do they need to be cleaned using methods which are different from normal.

We advise that plain school coats (logos are to be avoided) are worn only when needed as they are not allowed to be worn inside the buildings.

What equipment do I need?

There is no change to expected equipment however, students will receive a pencil case containing a black pen, green pen, pencil and ruler.



Students should also have a scientific calculator. The model used is Casio fx-83GTX and it **will be available to purchase in school**. You can also purchase from other stores including Argos, and Amazon amongst other suppliers.

Students are expected to have their own set of colouring pencils (ideally 12 colours).

What will I need for PE?

We are currently finalising the details of PE for the Autumn term. Please have your full PE kit ready to be used and we will update this section at the start of term.

What should I do if I think my child is showing signs of Covid-19?

Once you have read this information, if you believe that your child may have Covid-19 please follow the information on the website and also contact the school to discuss this with us.

Staying safe

If your child or someone in your household shows any of the symptoms of Coronavirus they must not come to school.

It is important to check if the symptoms match closely to those directly relating to coronavirus. To check if you or your child may have coronavirus symptoms, visit this site:

<https://www.nhs.uk/conditions/coronavirus-covid-19/symptoms/>

The main symptoms of coronavirus are:

- a high temperature – this means you feel hot to touch on your chest or back (you do not need to measure your temperature)
- a new, continuous cough – this means coughing a lot for more than an hour, or 3 or more coughing episodes in 24 hours (if you usually have a cough, it may be worse than usual)
- a loss or change to your sense of smell or taste – this means you've noticed you cannot smell or taste anything, or things smell or taste different to normal

Most people with coronavirus have at least 1 of these symptoms.



What to do if you have symptoms

If you have any of the main symptoms of coronavirus:

1. Get a test to check if you have coronavirus as soon as possible.
2. Stay at home and do not have visitors until you get your test result – only leave your home to have a test.

Anyone you live with, and anyone in your immediate support bubble (this is not the same as the bubble you are in at school), must also stay at home until you get your result.

Engagement with the NHS Test and Trace process

Parents/ carers must also be ready and willing to book a test if a child is displaying symptoms.

Tests can be booked online through the NHS testing and tracing for coronavirus website (<https://www.nhs.uk/conditions/coronavirus-covid-19/testing-and-tracing/get-an-antigen-test-to-check-if-you-have-coronavirus/>), or ordered by telephone via NHS 119 for those without access to the internet.

We are really looking forward to the academy reopening to all students next week and would like to thank you all for your ongoing support.

Yours sincerely,

Mary Cox

Mary Cox

Interim Principal