



11th September 2020

Dear Parent/Carer

We are now approaching the end of our first full week in school, which for many students has been their first time in school for sixth months. It has been a great experience being back with the students, and the vast majority seem to be happy to be back, and enjoying the experience. We recognise that it has been challenging for some students and staff, and we are working hard to make things as positive as possible. I'd like to thank you for ensuring that the students have come back to school looking so smart, and ready to learn.

Change to timetable

We have completed the first full week of timetable at the Academy, which has been complex due to the need to continue to keep student year groups in their separate bubbles. The staff and students have been working really hard together to make sure that we can deliver lessons in the usual way, whilst keeping everyone as safe as possible. We have very clear signposting in place, so that students are very clear about where they need to go, and how to maintain distancing wherever possible.

As the week has progressed, we have realised we can amend the timetable slightly to make the operation of the system more effective. This will mean that from **Wednesday 16th September**, we are going to introduce a revised timetable, to enable us to streamline the timings within the school day.

This will have an impact on the end of the school day for Y7, 8 and 9 students, **who will now finish at 3.15pm**, at the same time as the older students.

We will continue to monitor the procedures within school continuously, and will keep you informed of any changes that become necessary.

Visits to school

We want to be able to work closely with all families whose children are having challenges at school, and welcome all contact from you about any issues you may be having. However, we must continue to keep visits to the school at a minimum. If you do require a conversation, or wish to raise concerns, can you please telephone Reception to arrange an appointment? We cannot accommodate unannounced visits at this time.

Year 6 Open Evening

Our Year 6 open evening will now take place on **Thursday 8th October**. Families will be asked to book spaces on Eventbrite, allowing us to coordinate numbers, and ensure social distancing. The session will be held in the school theatre. Details of booking onto the event will be released next week. Our transition team are also beginning work with the Primary schools to help our next groups of students

to begin to plan their journey to secondary school. We will update you with any further events as they arise.

Reopening information

Our parent booklet outlining all aspects of the operation of the school during our re-opening phase is still available on the school website. If you have any queries, this is the best place to check at this time. We continue to plan for any changes in government advice, including developing a plan should partial closure be required.

Year 11 GCSE preparation

Our Year 11 students are now being prepared for their GCSEs. Whilst the dates of these exams is still not published, the teachers are preparing the students rigorously. This will include a series of intervention sessions which will begin next week. You will receive further information from the Curriculum team very shortly. We are also providing all of the Y11 students with study guides for their English, Maths and Science courses. Once exam dates are announced they will be made available to you.

I will try to update you as regularly as possible on how the school is operating, and any further changes as they arise. I would again like to thank you for the way in which you have prepared the students for their return to school, and for your support during these challenging times.

Email Addresses

Please can you provide an updated email address on the data form that will be sent out this week, this will allow us to send out correspondence electronically for efficiency and costs.

Yours faithfully

A handwritten signature in blue ink that reads "Mary Cox".

Mrs Mary Cox
Interim Principal