

9th June 2020

To: Parents and Carers

Dear Parent / Carer,

Many thanks to those of you who took the time to respond to our consultation last week about the partial re-opening of the academy to Years 10 and 12. Over 70% of parents responded to our questionnaire with the majority supporting our plans for re-opening. Some of you have requested a phone call about our plans and a member of academy staff will be in contact this week to answer any queries you may have. Some parents also enquired if school transport will be running – I am awaiting a response on this and will be in touch as soon as I get any information. I must point out however that any re-opening plans are subject to approval from the Trust Board, who are meeting on Thursday 11th June.

As a reminder, I just want to re-iterate the key principles of our planned return to the academy:

- the safety of staff and students is paramount – this includes their mental, emotional and physical well-being
- we are supportive and compassionate to all
- we regain the confidence of all stakeholders that the academy is safe
- we supplement, not just replace, the learning experience (this can include social interactions as part of the learning experience)
- our approach is sustainable and deliverable

I should also stress that a maximum of 25% of each year group will be on site at any one time to ensure the safety of students and staff and that students will be invited to return to the academy for one week on a rota basis. After the first four-week block, we will review our provision to see if some students would benefit from attending in what will be the final week of term. The maximum student group size for all lessons will be eight and each student group will have limited exposure to a very small number of members of staff.

There will be a number of communications this week as we lead up to the final decision as to whether the academy partially re-opens on Monday 15th June. These were outlined by Mr Johnson in his email on Friday, but I'd like to re-emphasise them here:

- **Wednesday 10th** – a photo instruction booklet for the academy will be posted on the website and sent out by e-mail. This will contain practical instruction about how the day will operate. There will also be a video walk through to see how the academy looks and will operate during the partial re-opening. Our Frequently Asked Questions and Risk Assessments will be published on our website, together with our Equality Impact Assessment.

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- **Thursday 11th** – Health and Safety Responsible Officers and Trustees will be visiting each site to see for themselves what is in place and to talk to staff and students. They will then meet at 2pm to run through all the feedback we've received together with a full report on all our actions since the Prime Minister's announcement on 10th May. Following their meeting, Mr Johnson will write to you all with their decision. If the decision is to open more widely then the plans you will have received from the academy will be in place from Monday 15th.
- **Friday 12th** – you will have the opportunity to ask final questions in preparation for Monday if we open.

There will also be a further email today giving the details and the dates of your child's allocated week in the academy. For clarification – if your child is in year 10 and has been attending the hub at the academy, they should continue to do so and then attend their Year 10 'pod' during their allocated week. They should then return to the hub in subsequent weeks

I hope this clarifies the situation for the week ahead but please don't hesitate to get in touch with the academy if you have any questions or queries. As ever, my sincere thanks for all you're doing to continue to maintain the learning of your son / daughter during these difficult times.

Yours sincerely



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