

COVID19 Information for Parents – September 2020

This information is based on the Department for Education's *Guidance for Full Opening – Schools*.

Principles

- Throughout COVID19 and the challenges this has presented, the Academy has always prioritised the health, safety and wellbeing of pupils, parents, and staff.
- This will continue as we reopen to all pupils on a full-time basis in September. We are looking forward to welcoming pupils back to the routines and structures of a school environment to focus on learning and progress.
- Using guidance from the Department for Education and Public Health England, we have planned carefully to minimise the risk to pupils and their families, as well as staff. As a result, we have made many changes to the school day, environment and pupil routines which allow enhanced hygiene and minimised contact between year group 'bubbles.'
- Within this guide, we have outlined the key changes and information to be aware of in preparation for September. We ask that all parents and carers spend time familiarising themselves with the information and ensure that your child understands the importance of the new measures.

Main Changes for September

- **Introduction of year group 'bubbles.'** To minimise contact with individuals, pupils will form 'bubbles' within their year groups for all lessons and remaining within these bubbles will also be facilitated and encouraged during break and lunch times.
- **Introduction of a one-way system around the school building.** Evidence indicates that the transmission risks are significantly lower with side-by-side contact, therefore a one-way system has been introduced to limit face-to-face contact around the school building. This will be explained clearly to pupils in September - all pupils **must** follow the system.
- **Change to the school day.** To minimise contact between year groups, we have made changes to the school day to allow a longer break and lunch time to stagger use of the canteen. Furthermore, pupils will also be dismissed from afternoon registration in a staggered manner: Years 9 & 10 will leave at 2.55pm, Years 7 & 8 will leave at 3pm and Year 11 will leave at either 4pm following compulsory Period 7 catch up lessons or 2.45pm on Fridays. The start of the school day will remain unchanged, and **all pupils are expected to be in their form rooms or the assembly hall by 8.30am.**

Public Transport

If your child travels to school using public transport, please ensure that they have face covering that they can wear during the journey. The Academy will provide a covered bin for the disposing of temporary face coverings on arrival at school. If your child has a reusable face covering, you should also provide them with a plastic bag to store the face covering in during the school day.

Enhanced Hygiene

Public Health England recommend enhanced hand hygiene and good respiratory hygiene through 'catch it, bin it, kill it' as the main strategies for managing transmission risks in schools.

We are facilitating this in the following ways:

- Installation of three hand-washing troughs on the yard; pupils must wash their hands on entry, throughout the school day and prior to eating.
- Provision of sanitiser in every classroom to ensure that hands and/or surfaces can be cleaned quickly if required.
- Provision of tissues in every classroom with bins emptied frequently throughout the day.
- Installation of hand sanitiser dispensers around the school site.
- Cleaners available on-site at all times to ensure that high-touch areas are cleaned frequently, and enhanced hygiene levels are maintained.
- Pupils are welcome to bring their own sanitiser to use sensibly should they wish to.
- The Academy is provided pencil cases containing essential equipment to all children free-of-charge to prevent shared equipment. These pencil cases must stay in school as they will be cleaned each evening.

We ask that parents and carers always stress the importance of pupils following good hygiene practices, cleaning their hands frequently throughout the school day.

Illness & Absence

From the start of the autumn term, attendance is mandatory again for **all pupils**. The Academy is committed to supporting children and families achieve 100% attendance to maximise progress. Following the unavoidable school closure, consistently high attendance is more important than ever.

However, if your child has one of the following symptoms, they **must not** attend school:

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

Any child that presents with any of these symptoms during the school day will be sent home to self-isolate.

Any child that displays symptoms of COVID19 can and should get a test. Tests can be booked online via the NHS Coronavirus website or via phone by calling NHS 119.

You should contact the Academy **immediately** with the results of your child's tests:

- If they test negative, feel well and no longer have symptoms similar to COVID19, they can stop self-isolating and return to school. Other members of their household can also stop self-isolating and return to school and work.
- If they test positive, your child should follow the 'stay at home' guidance and must continue to self-isolate for at least 7 days from the start of their symptoms. They can only return to school when their temperature has returned to normal; the cough and loss of sense of smell/taste can last for several weeks after the infection has gone. Other members of the household should continue self-isolating for the full 14 days.

Expectations of Behaviour

As ever, the Academy has the highest expectations of all pupils, both during the school day and when in the community representing the Academy; we are grateful to all parents and carers for their ongoing support in emphasising this crucial message to their children.

In addition to our usual Academy rules, from September, we will also be expecting all pupils to:

- Always follow the one-way system.
- Move to lessons quickly and sensibly – do not wait for friends.
- Remain with their own year group whenever possible.
- Always follow the hygiene rules.
- Only use their own pencil case and equipment.
- Be respectful of other people's feelings and personal space about Covid19.
- Be respectful of our neighbours and people in the community when travelling to and from school.

Any pupil not meeting these expectations will be dealt with proportionately on an individual basis in line with the behaviour policy.

Parental Support

We recognise that the unavoidable school closure has presented many challenges for families, and the Academy appreciates how parents and carers supported remote learning during this time. As we move back to all pupils in school on a full-time basis, it is vital that pupils understand the changes we have introduced, the reasons underpinning these changes and the importance of following the new measures.

Please ensure that you spend some time over the Summer Break talking to your child about the changes in place for September so that they can settle back into school routines and expectations smoothly and quickly to focus on learning.

Should you wish to discuss any of the information outlined here, please do not hesitate to contact your child's Progress Leader in September.