



10 July 2020

Dear Families

September Full Reopening of Schools

I am sure you are by now aware that at the start of this week the Secretary of State announced the government's plans for a full return to school for all students in September. As you will imagine this plan comes with extensive guidance on how schools should do this in the safest and most effective way. A link to the guidance issued to schools is [here](#) for your information. The aim is to have all students back in full time education, studying the fullest range of curriculum subjects possible.

We are delighted that we will get the chance to have students back in school with us. School will continue to look and feel very different to what we are used to for some time to come and we are currently planning how we can best implement the latest guidance in the context of our academy, taking in to account our facilities and available resources.

This will take some time and we will be back in touch with more detail so students know what to expect before the summer break and you as a family can plan accordingly.

There are some things we can be clear about now and so I would like to share these things with you:

- All students will be expected to return to school – shielding advice currently in place will cease on 1 August, subject to a continued decline in the community transmission rates. There may be a very small number of students who still need to follow clinical advice and we will work with those families individually, based on medical advice that has been given to them.
- The academy will follow the government rules in place in September to support good attendance.
- It is likely that we will have a phased return to school in September to enable us to run a full and proper induction with each year group about new school routines and exactly how the school day will work. Students will need time to absorb and understand how we need to work together and why certain changes are in place.
- Students will return in September in full school uniform – we relaxed our uniform this term in order to make it easier for students to ensure they wore clean clothes every time they came to school. Current advice is that no additional cleaning and washing regimes need to be in place, for uniform.
- We will operate year group 'bubbles' meaning students will only mix with other students in their 'bubble'.
- There will be minimal movement around the site. Staff will move to join students in their 'base' classrooms. Students will remain in the same room at their allocated desk for the vast majority of their lessons.
- It may not be possible for us to offer all subjects to all students whilst maintaining the 'bubble' approach and minimising interactions. There are also restrictions on the use of equipment in specialist areas such as in sport, technology and science. We may need to adapt our curriculum in these areas.
- At the end of this term we will stop routinely setting work using our on-line platforms as we have been and all lessons will be delivered in school. We will revert to using Show My Homework solely for the setting of homework tasks as before the school closure period.
- Students who are unable to return because they are following medical instructions will be supported to work at home.
- KCC have confirmed that transport systems will run as per the usual timetable. All users of public transport need to wear a face mask when on board. Students travelling on dedicated school transport, do not.

- Students will not be required to wear facemasks when in school. We have instituted increased cleaning and regular handwashing regimes. All rooms have access to hand sanitiser and equipment to clean desks and keyboards.
- Following social distancing instructions and hygiene rules will become a formal requirement of our behaviour for learning and home school agreement policies.

In our planning we are paying close attention to:

- Arrival and departure arrangements so that students do not have pro-longed and unavoidable interactions with students outside of their 'bubble'.
- How we can afford students the chance to arrive in a window of time in order that they can choose to travel on less occupied buses/trains.
- How we will offer a lunch service to all students without mixing year groups.
- If we will be able to offer our extra-curricular activities including after school activities and trips and visits.

Curriculum Planning

It is our ambition that although we will start the year with tighter restrictions in place we will move towards more fluidity in the way we work and learn, once our routines are firmly embedded. For example moving between 'base' rooms in order to access specialist teaching areas such as PE, science and technology areas if we are able to do so without compromising health and safety standards. We are also expecting government advice will change as the transmission rate continues to fall. We will maintain our capacity to use on-line teaching in case a local or national lockdown is implemented in the future.

We will also be adapting the subjects that are taught and the time spent in subject areas to allow catch up time where it is most needed and to concentrate on ensuring reading, literacy and numeracy skills are accelerated. Additional time will also be given to examination subjects for older students at different points throughout the academic year to ensure we prepare them for next year's exam season.

The government have also announced plans to provide schools with additional funding to run a tutoring programme during next year meaning that we will be able to provide additional opportunities for students to catch up where and if they have fallen behind while working at home. We will give you more information about this once they are confirmed.

This letter is to reassure you that we are in the process of planning a full return for students in a safe and manageable way and to give you some interim detail so that you can begin to look ahead in your own plans. We will be back in touch with the exact detail of what September will look like in the final week of term. We will also be keeping our lines of communication open during the summer holidays so that you are able to get in touch with us if you need to.

It has been a long and difficult period of time since we were all last together and there will be other barriers to overcome. Be assured that we will continue to work together to do the very best for our students – now more than ever.

Yours sincerely



Daniel Hatley
Executive Principal