



14th September 2020

Dear Parent/Carer

I am writing to provide you with important updates following the re-opening of our Academy to all students. After such a prolonged period of time away from school I am immensely proud of the way our wonderful students and staff have adapted and worked together this week to secure successful implementation of our re-opening strategy. Witnessing our students return to lessons and watching them engage with learning has been absolutely amazing.

When I wrote to you at the start of the month I made a commitment to re-open with two key principles in mind; providing all students with a broad educational experience and with clear and consistent health and safety measures in place. I also committed to regular reflection of the impact of our strategy and to adapt it where appropriate. We have made several tweaks recently which have strengthened our on-site operations and I firmly believe we have secured the strongest possible strategic plan to deliver on our key principles.

We have however recognised that the end of our school day is a little more congested than we would like, and would therefore like to address this through staggered ends to the day. Commencing Wednesday 16th September we will implement the following adjustments to the end of the school day:

Year Group	Current End of Day Time	New End of Day Time
7	2.45pm	2.45pm
8	2.55pm	2.50pm
9	2.55pm	2.55pm
10	2.50pm	3.00pm
11	3.45pm	3.45pm (3.00pm on Fridays)
12&13	3.45pm	3.45pm

We are regularly reminding our students of the importance of social distancing and the wearing of face masks whilst at our Academy. It is so important that your son/daughter continues to follow these important safety guidelines whilst travelling home and I would urge you to keep reinforcing this. I have had to board buses on several occasions to remind children that this is government guidance and therefore must always be undertaken.

As we approach the winter months, spikes in seasonal illness are inevitable. To manage the risk of spread of infections and viruses it is vital that parents make careful judgements around sending children to school. There is clear guidance related to COVID-19 symptoms and I ask parents not to send children to school if any of the following symptoms are present:

- 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

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

We have put together some very clear steps to help parents/carers understand how we can work together to support and care for children who might become unwell whilst at our Academy. The following link will take you to a page on our website where we aim to place a bank of resources aimed to help parents during these challenging times.

https://www.newarkacademy.co.uk/data/uploads/web/files/NET_COVID-19-Symptomatic-Pupils_Leaflet.pdf

We have worked extremely hard over the past four years to establish exceptionally high standards at our Academy and we are extremely proud of the way the significant majority of our students consistently strive to reach them. There are however a small number of students who sometimes forget that their responsibility to make positive contributions doesn't end at our Academy gates. There have been a small number of instances of poor behaviour and unkindness whilst on the bus and at our local shops. Put simply, this is not acceptable for members of our Academy and I welcome your support in reinforcing this with your child/children.

I have spoken to the managers of the transport companies that provide transport for your children and have agreed to support them to challenge poor conduct. We have agreed a policy where there is the potential for a ban from the use of the service should there be any unkind/unsafe behaviour. If your child uses the bus to travel to school then please read our letter (link below) which outlines this policy and remind them of their responsibilities whilst in our community.

https://www.newarkacademy.co.uk/data/letters/files/Bus_letter_140920.pdf

As our academic year progresses there will be a number of events, such as open evenings and achievement evenings, which are due to take place. We will work creatively to provide these very important opportunities so that we continue to work in partnership to support your child's progress. We will keep in regular contact to ensure that parents/carers are fully aware of our approach to these.

Thank you for your continued support,

Yours sincerely



Chris Fisher
Head of School

