



21<sup>st</sup> October 2020

Dear Parent/Carer,

Following what has been a very unique but hugely successful term here at the Academy, I wanted to take this opportunity to write to you with an important series of updates following reflection and feedback from staff, students and parents/carers in readiness for our return to learning in early November.

I am continually amazed and humbled by the resilience and tenacity our students demonstrate on a daily basis following such a prolonged period away from the Academy, and I am hugely proud to lead a school community filled with such wonderful young people and dedicated and incredibly supportive parents.

I am also incredibly grateful for the hard work and dedication of all staff who have continually gone above and beyond to ensure that all students are supported in the most appropriate way to ensure that their return to learning has been as seamless as possible.

Indeed, the quality of experience that students receive at our Academy continues to be exceptional as a result of our very careful planning and the high levels of responsibility that students take when operating in a Covid environment.

We continue to review our processes to assess their impact and to ensure that student and staff safety remains our highest priority, closely followed by the quality of classroom experience for all students. As a result of careful review we are now able to improve our processes further by making a number of small amendments to our current system.

I recently wrote to you outlining our key principles for re-opening. Firstly, to secure a safe return for our students and staff; and secondly to provide a broad curriculum offer that afforded all students with access to the knowledge and experience within those subjects of which they show such passion for. On reflection, and to some extent, our current strategy whilst effective, would benefit from slight adjustment to ensure that quality first teaching continues in a safe and calm learning environment.

The introduction of staggered starts and ends to the school day have proven highly effective and will remain a key component of our overall strategy. Year group 'bubbles' for breaks and lunch times will also remain.

The main amendment sees our current year group 'zones' replaced with a more effective, extended one way system, designed to help maximize the use of the Academy building, ease congestion on corridors and ensure that learning begins as soon as children cross our learning line. By making this change, we believe that this will impact positively on student experience both in and outside the classroom.

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Furthermore, we aim to increase our measures in regards to hand hygiene so students will be expected to clean their hands much more regularly and on arrival and departure from every lesson. Each of these measures reflect the recently updated government guidance for schools which I strongly believe will strengthen safety measures and improve learning opportunities and experiences.

Over the coming days we will work extensively with our staff and students to ensure a smooth transition into the second half of the autumn term.

I will be addressing the entire Academy cohort prior to breaking for the half term holiday so that all students leave us prior to their break, fully aware of the changes that we are making and how it effects them on their return to the Academy on the 2<sup>nd</sup> of November.

Furthermore, the new half term will commence with a re-onboarding programme, through Crew Leaders, designed to strengthen our students understanding of these changes but also to remind and revisit the exceptionally high standards that we expect all of our students to uphold.

If you have any questions or would like to discuss any aspect of the information outlined above then please do not hesitate to contact a member of the Academy team at your earliest convenience.

Thank you for your ongoing support,

Yours sincerely

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Chris Fisher', with a stylized, overlapping loop at the end.

Chris Fisher

Head of School