



Dear Parent/Carer,

I hope that this correspondence finds you well and in good spirits as we begin to emerge from our imposed period of lockdown.

I recently wrote to you outlining some broad principles regarding our intention to begin to partially reopen our Academy for those identified students in Year 10 and X12, as per published government guidance. As part of this communication, I outlined our ambition to begin to provide opportunities for all students to access some form of provision at the Academy prior to the summer especially for students in our lower school year groups. Namely, Year 7, Year 8 and Year 9.

To realise this ambition, we must ensure that we continue to remain in line with strict wider protective measures guidance and the safety of both students and staff remain our primary priority. However, we have been working relentlessly to ensure that the necessary actions and critical risk assessments have been undertaken to provide all parents and carers with the reassurance that should students in lower school year groups return to the Academy, then we have made every attempt to ensure they are safe to do so.

For ease of reference, we have already emailed all parents and carers with a link to our Return to the Academy Risk Assessment which can be found on our website and have completed a Health and Safety video demonstrating the measures we have taken to ensure that students and staff are clear as to their responsibilities to maintain effective social distancing whilst on site at the Academy.

This week has seen the return of both Year 10 and X12 students to the Academy and it has been a sheer joy to be able to see them after such a significant period of absence. Our careful planning has proven highly effective and the return of all students has been seamless. It is clear from talking to our students that they missed being in school just as much as we have missed seeing them. It is this stark reality that has now accelerated our plans to offer some level of contact for Year 7, 8 and 9 as we move towards the end of the academic year.

We have constructed several careful plans to ensure that students in all year groups can reconnect with the Academy, their teachers, and their fellow classmates through several various channels. The success of our 'live lesson' programme for both Year 10 and X12 has provided us with the confidence and the technical expertise to now offer this provision across all year groups but in a measured and controlled way.

We are unable to offer students in lower school year groups the opportunity to attend the Academy for face to face learning due to the 25% rule applied to Year 10 and X12 and the supervision of key worker children that already exists. However, we will be contacting families over the coming weeks either via phone call, email or virtual 'conversation' led by an appropriate adult, to allow both your child and you as parents and carers the opportunity to discuss your child's wellbeing and their academic progress to date. Further details as to how this will work will be organised will follow shortly.

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In addition to the contact outlined above, we are working hard to provide all students with access to live assemblies via Microsoft TEAMS, an online learning platform that provides opportunity for students across the Academy to access important information including news, resource and important information. Achievement Leaders are currently finalising their plans for provision and will contact you directly in the coming week outlining the level of provision your child will receive prior to the summer break.

As we move towards a new system, it is critical that we maintain our strict safeguarding protocols to protect both students and staff. For example, students will not be able to use the camera function in Microsoft TEAMS when invited to 'Live Lessons' but will have access to the conversation facility to engage with their teacher to ask questions or seek clarification.

Therefore, I would ask that parents and carers complete the 'Online Learning Parental Consent Form' that will be sent to you directly by your child's Achievement Leader along with full details of the planned provision that we intend to enact over the coming weeks.

It is important to note that we are taking a cautious approach, as much of our planning involves a comprehensive training programme for colleagues to use new systems and processes along with robust testing processes to ensure that students and families are able to access information when requested to do so.

This, along with our plans for Year 10, X12 and transition for both Year 11 and Year 6 means that we have entered an extremely busy period here at the Academy and all staff are working determinedly to ensure that we are able to engage with every student prior to the summer. We appreciate that this is ambitious and will take time, but we are grateful for the continued support of parents and carers as we look to realise our ambition and reconnect with every member of our Academy community.

The above information should offer you a very broad outline of our plans for potential provision for all students at the Academy. We will continue to update these plans in response to constantly emerging government guidance, particularly given the recent announcements surrounding relaxation of certain elements of our imposed lockdown. If the government announce the relaxation of the 2-metre rule as an example, then our plans will naturally be adapted but for now, we continue to plan for our current situation.

Our intention is to confirm our offer for all students in Years 7, 8 and 9 in the next two weeks via email following our extensive review of face to face, one to one and online live lesson provision taking place from Monday 22nd for Year 10 and X12 students.

I am, as always, hugely grateful for the continued support and comments of kindness that you provide. It makes a significant difference to our entire staff body to know that we have such supportive parents and carers who continue to show appreciation and understanding of our efforts to maintain provision for all our students at such a critical time.

Please do take good care of yourselves and your families and as always, if anything is unclear or if you would like to discuss the contents of this letter further, then please do not hesitate to contact a member of Academy staff at your earliest convenience.

Kind regards,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Andy Seymour', with a stylized flourish at the end.

Andy Seymour
Headteacher

