



17th September 2020

Dear Parents/Carers and Students,

We have now had a full three weeks of term and it has been fantastic to see all students back at school and learning again. I hope they have enjoyed coming back, seeing their friends and starting to get back into lessons. Last week I spoke with all students about the need to take this opportunity and show ambition in what they do, day in day out, to ensure they reach their goals and fulfil their potential. Overall, given the restrictions we have in place, they have made an excellent start.

Despite this, we are of course still in strange times and things are not normal. We have had a very different way of operating the school day. After a period of time to review this and given that students have adhered very well to expectations so far, we have decided to make a few amendments. The changes will improve the learning experience at the same time as following the government guidance for health, safety and hygiene principles. Health and safety remains paramount for staff and students. Students will be informed again of the very of clear rules and expectations around behaviour, hygiene and the changes we are making and must follow these at all times to ensure the safety of the whole academy community.

What are the changes?

The changes will see some differences in movement to lessons, with students being able to go to the subject specialist areas and access a full curriculum. They will still remain in separate year group bubbles in lessons, at break and lunchtime and arrival to and departure from school. Therefore, they will not have close contact with students from other year groups for any length of time. They may come across other students at movement times. This is classed as 'low risk' according to government guidance. Despite this, our added measures to reduce risk further are that they will be wearing face coverings (unless medically exempt), keeping a distance from other year groups wherever possible and will follow a clear one-way system throughout the whole of the building.

They will continue to follow a strict hygiene routine around using their own equipment, wiping down desks after use and hand-sanitising/washing frequently. Student finish times will continue to be staggered slightly to ensure movement off school site at the end of the day is more gradual.

One other change we are implementing is for PE and Dance changing. From Monday students will once again attend school in full uniform, bringing with them their PE/Dance kit and changing at school. There will be a cleaning regime in the changing rooms between use and we have purchased some additional benching to allow for more spacing.

Unfortunately, we are still unable to open the drop off bay and bike storage racks at this time.

Other important reminders

Face coverings

We have supplied students with face coverings and ask that they bring them each day. We also ask that they are washed regularly at a high temperature. Where students have forgotten their face covering we have been able to supply a second but the stock is not endless. We recommend that your child brings a spare face covering which is either a disposable one or plain and black or dark blue in colour as a backup.

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What to do if symptoms emerge

It is crucial that parents/carers and students understand and adhere to the strict advice and guidance around self-isolation and testing should any symptoms occur within your household or through track and trace. On the next page we have summarised the expectations and guidance around this. Please do take time to read and ensure you are following this to ensure the health and safety of the whole academy community.

Thank you for your support

Finally, I wanted to thank all parents/carers for their support in getting things up and running again. On the whole attendance has been strong and students have been very positive. Obviously the pandemic is still at large and whilst nothing in society is completely safe we are doing all we can to minimise the risks at our academy. We welcome your support in reinforcing our expectations with your children. We will continue to monitor the situation and may make further tweaks or changes in future. At all times we will keep you informed and up-to-date.

Best wishes,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'R. H. Marsh', followed by a period.

Rob Marsh
Principal

Coronavirus (COVID -19) Absences quick reference guide for Parents and Carers



What to do if ...	Action needed	Return to school when...
<p>My child has one or more of the Coronavirus symptoms</p> <p>PLEASE NOTE: According to the NHS, on 16/09/20 the symptoms are:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • a high temperature • a new, continuous cough – this means coughing a lot, for more than an hour, or 3 or more coughing episodes in 24 hours • a loss or change to sense of smell or taste – this means they cannot smell or taste anything, or things smell or taste different to normal 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Do not come to school • Contact school to report the absence • Self-isolate • Get a test • Inform school immediately with test result 	<p>The test comes back negative</p>
<p>My child tests positive for Coronavirus</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Do not come to school • Contact school to report the positive test and absence • Self-isolate for at least 10 days 	<p>Your child can return to school after 10 days of self-isolation, even if they still have a cough or loss of smell/taste. These symptoms can last for several weeks once the infection has gone.</p>
<p>Somebody in my household has one or more of the coronavirus symptoms</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Do not come to school • Contact school to report the absence • Self-isolate for 14 days 	<p>The household member has tested negative.</p>
<p>Somebody in my household has tested positive for Coronavirus</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Do not come to school • Contact school to report the absence • Self-isolate for 14 days 	<p>The child has completed 14 days of self-isolation and has no symptoms. If your child develops symptom, get them tested and if positive then they need to restart a 10-day self-isolation period and only return to school after this period.</p>
<p>NHS test and trace have identified my child as a close contact of somebody with symptoms or confirmed coronavirus</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Do not come to school • Contact school to report the absence • Self-isolate for 14 days 	<p>The child has completed 14 days of self-isolation and has no symptoms. If your child develops symptom, get them tested and if positive then they need to restart a 10-day self-isolation period and only return to school after this period.</p>
<p>We want to book a holiday abroad</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Consider quarantine requirements and FCO advice when booking travel • Provide information to school as per attendance policy • any holidays booked in term time would be unauthorised 	
<p>We/my child has travelled and has to self-isolate as part of a period of quarantine</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Do not come to school if you are returning from a destination where quarantine is needed • Contact school to report the absence • Self-isolate for 14 days 	<p>The quarantine period of 14 days has been completed. If your child develops symptom, get them tested and if positive then they need to restart a 10-day self-isolation period and only return to school after this period.</p>
<p>We have received medical advice that my child must resume shielding</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Do not come to school • Contact school to inform us of shielding • Shield until you are informed that restrictions are lifted and shielding is paused again 	<p>Restrictions have been lifted.</p>