



Frequently Asked Questions: Parents/Carers

Question: Who is expected back in September?

The Government's guidance is that all children are expected to attend school from September.

Question: What will the first week look like?

As we would usually do, the first week back is staggered. The plan is:

Monday 7 th September	Staff INSET Day
Tuesday 8 th September	Staff INSET Day
Wednesday 9 th September	Academy open for Year 7, Year 12 and Year 13 only
Thursday 10 th September	Academy open for all year groups
Friday 11 th September	Academy open for all year groups

Question: Will the timings of the school day change?

No – our school day timings remain the same. We expect all students to be on site by 8.15 at the latest. The gate will open at 7.45.

Question: How will the academy meet the Government's guidance on reducing contact?

September will see a number of changes which will ensure contact between students is reduced.

Students will stay in year group bubbles as per the Government guidance. **Each year group will be taught in one block of the academy** and staff will travel to the students; students will not be moving around the site. The allocated blocks are:

- Y7 Main Block Upper
- Y8 Humanities
- Y9 Main Block Lower
- Y10 Tech Block
- Y11 Science
- Y12 Three Storey Block
- Y13 Drama Block

Another change from September is that **students will no longer be in VMGs**. Instead they will be in a mentor group with students of the same year group.

The **layout of our classrooms will change** in September. Our students currently sit in groups of 4.

However, from September all students will be sat in rows facing one way.

The **timings and venues of lunch and break** will be a further change in September to help reduce contact. There will now be three dining areas: the Dome, the Dining Hall and the Post-16 Common Room. Only one year group will be in the venue at any one time thus ensuring that the bubbles are maintained. The new timings are:

Year 7 Break 10.15-10.30; Lunch 12.30-1.00 (Dining Hall)
Year 8 Break 9.45-10.00 ; Lunch 12.00-12.30 (Dome)
Year 9 Break 10.45-11.00; Lunch 1.00-1.30 (Dining Hall)
Year 10 Break 9.45-10.00 ; Lunch 12.00-12.30 (Dining Hall)
Year 11 Break 10.45-11.00; Lunch 1.00-1.30 (Dome)
Post 16 Break 10.15-10.30; Lunch 12.30-1.00 (P16 Common Room)

Breakfast provision will run every day, but only certain year groups on identified days – these days will be confirmed in September.

We will be asking **students to go straight to their blocks when they enter the academy**. There will be no large gatherings of students at the start of the day.

Assemblies will be cancelled and information disseminated through student's mentor groups.

Year groups will be separated for detentions thus ensuring no contact between different year groups.

Enrichment sessions will also be held in year groups.

Question: Will students still have access to equipment and rooms needed for specialist subjects?

Yes we have kept some specialist rooms free to enable all students across all year groups to access them. For example, if your child is taking Food Technology then they will move from their allocated block to one of the cookery rooms so they can access the specialist equipment needed. This will be the same for other Technology subjects and, for example, PE and Music. These rooms will be cleaned more frequently.

Question: How else will we help stop a potential spread of the virus?

Students will be expected to wash their hands as they enter the academy and should then wash/sanitise their hands at the start of every lesson (hand sanitiser will be available for students).

Question: What will happen with parents' evenings and other information evenings?

At this time, there will be no mass gatherings in the academy. We are currently looking at how parents' evenings can work in the new academic year. We will send more information in due course.

Question: Can I come onto the academy site?

We would ask that only visitors with a prior appointment visit the academy site. If you do need to contact anyone, please use the contact details of Learning Managers and SLT which are available on the academy's website.

Question: What will uniform be like in September?

Uniform expectations will be the same. All students will be expected to attend in full uniform in September. The academy's rules on jewellery, piercings etc will also be the same.

Question: What is the advice for travelling to the academy?

If your child normally uses the bus to travel to school, there is different guidance from the Government depending on the type of bus the student uses.

If your child using a public service bus, they will have to wear a face mask in line with all other passengers.

If, however, your child uses a school bus there is no need to wear a face mask.

The guidance can be found here in Section 2: School Operations, Transport:

<https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/actions-for-schools-during-the-coronavirus-outbreak/guidance-for-full-opening-schools>

Question: What happens if a student falls ill whilst at school?

The academy will follow the Government's guidelines:

'If anyone in the school becomes unwell with a new, continuous cough or a high temperature, or has a loss of, or change in, their normal sense of taste or smell (anosmia), they must be sent home and advised to follow 'stay at home: guidance for households with possible or confirmed coronavirus (COVID-19) infection', which sets out that they must self-isolate for at least 7 days and should arrange to have a test to see if they have coronavirus (COVID-19). Other members of their household (including any siblings) should self-isolate for 14 days from when the symptomatic person first had symptoms'.

Question: How will I be kept informed of what is happening in the academy?

Any changes or additions to the information included here will be uploaded to our website and also placed on our Facebook page and Twitter account.

There is also a video from Mr Rutter which you can watch:

<https://www.loom.com/share/f6aea8357a6b41a486ec6b72704fccb4>

The video and a PowerPoint presentation can also be found on the academy's website.