



Frequently Asked Questions: Students

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 current students will know, we will stagger the start of the year so that you don't all come back at the same time:

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. As you know we expect you all to be on site by 8.15.

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

When you come back in September there will be a number of changes, some of which will make the school day very different to what you are used to. This is to ensure that we keep mixing with students to a minimum and reduce your contact with students outside of your year group.

Previously you will have moved around the site all day, going from lesson to lesson, from block to block. However, from September you will mainly stay in one block for your lessons. Staff will come to you; you won't go to them. There are some exceptions when you may need a specialist teaching room (more information in the next question/answer) Your 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 **you will no longer be in VMGs**. Instead you will be in a mentor group with students of the same year group.

The **layout of our classrooms will change** in September. As you know, you always sit in groups of 4. However, from September you 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 and venues 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 you to **go straight to your blocks when you enter the academy**. You won't be able to congregate in large groups as you do now – for example, between Science and the Hub.

Assemblies will be cancelled and we will get any information to you through your mentor groups.

Detentions will still be held in the dining hall. However, each year group will be allocated a particular zone with the hall thus ensuring no contact between different groups of students.

Enrichment sessions will be held in year groups. More information about what enrichment sessions will be running will be shared with you in September.

Question: Will I 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 you are taking Food Technology then you will move from your block to one of the cookery rooms so you 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?

You will be expected to wash your hands as you enter the academy and should then wash/sanitise your hands at the start of every lesson (hand sanitiser will be available).

If you have worn a disposable mask to travel to school, there will be a bin near the entrance gate for you to dispose of your mask. If you wear a washable/re-usable mask then you should take it off as you enter the academy and place it in your bag.

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 my parents/carer come onto the academy site?

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

Question: What will uniform be like in September?

Uniform expectations will be the same. You will be expected to attend in full uniform in September. The academy's rules on jewellery, piercings etc will also be the same. If you are intending to get a new piercing soon, please get it done at the start of the summer so that it can be removed when we return to school.

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

If you normally use the bus to travel to school, there is different guidance from the Government depending on the type of bus you use.

If you use a public service bus, you will have to wear a face mask in line with all other passengers.

If, however, you use 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>

The bike shed will be open as usual.

Question: What happens if I fall 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 my family and 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.