

Principal: Mrs C Robson
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27th August 2020

Dear Parent/Carer,

I hope you and your child are having an enjoyable summer holiday so far, and are feeling ready for the new academic year. We are very much looking forward to safely welcoming all our students.

I am writing to you to remind you of your child's start date, uniform and about face masks.

Start Date

A reminder of each year groups start date:

Wednesday 2 nd September	Students who start in Year 7
Thursday 3 rd September	Students who move into Years 10 and 11
Friday 4 th September	Students who move into Years 8 and 9

Students must arrive between 8:00am and 8:20am on their first day in full uniform. Staff will be present on the gates to direct students to where they line up. Lessons will finish each day at 2:45pm.

Uniform

It has been brought to my attention that there is a back log at Uniform Direct and small minority of families may be experiencing difficulties in getting your child the Academy blazer. If this is the case, please **send a note in with your child** explaining your situation and one of the three options will happen:

1. You could purchase a plain black blazer from any clothing store whilst you await the correct Academy blazer. This would be an extra cost so is optional.
2. Your child can borrow a clean Academy blazer from our Uniform Cupboard if one fits until their blazer arrives.
3. If the above two options are not suitable we will give your child a uniform card to excuse the wearing of no blazer until the issue is rectified. Please note students will not be allowed to wear jumpers or coats inside the Academy building.

Face Masks

I wish to provide an update on the wearing of face masks in and around the Academy, following an update to Government guidance released earlier in the week.

The Department for Education has said the use of face masks in Academies are generally not necessary, as the robust safety and hygiene measures that have been implemented, including students and staff keeping in consistent groups (bubbles), social distancing and undertaking regular hand washing, will help control the spread of any virus.

The Government guidance has been updated, however, to state that in areas of the country where the transmission of the virus is high and local lockdowns have been implemented, that face masks should be worn by all students and staff when moving around the school. In the event of a local



lockdown being implemented here, we would communicate with parents, students and staff immediately and would provide disposable masks in the first instance.

We do understand, however, that some parents, students, and staff may feel more comfortable if they have the option to wear a face mask on their return to school in September if necessary, including in areas where social distancing may not always be possible. **Whilst not compulsory, students are allowed to wear their own multiple-use face masks in communal areas such as corridors, the Zone and the Courtyard (refreshment areas). Facemasks are not to be worn in the classroom.** If a student does strongly feel that they would like to wear a face mask in the classroom, please contact the Academy to discuss this further so arrangements can be made for exceptional circumstances.

It is very important that when wearing a face mask at school, your child understands the correct way to wear, handle and store them, as if they are handled incorrectly it may inadvertently increase the risk of transmission. For information on wearing, handling and washing reusable face masks, additional information is included at the end of this letter. Students will also be shown in Personal Tutor time.

Additionally, as they are not mandatory in areas of low transmission and your child should already have an appropriate face mask for other settings such as shops, they will need to be provided by yourselves, rather than the Academy. We would ask that the face masks are **multiple use, are as plain as possible, and are non-branded**. Other types of covering such as scarves and bandanas will not be allowed. If you would like your child to wear a face mask but are unable to access one, please do contact the Academy directly so that we can provide the necessary support.

We completely appreciate that these continue to be extraordinary times, and whilst the return in September will be a somewhat different to what we all know, we want to ensure that we make the best possible start to the new academic year for your child.

The safety and wellbeing of our students, and staff, continues to be our absolute priority and we have worked tirelessly over the last few months to have all safety measures in place so that we can safely welcome your child back to school come September.

If you have any questions or would like to discuss this further, please do not hesitate to get in touch.

Yours sincerely



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How to wear a face mask

A face mask should:

- cover your nose and mouth while allowing you to breathe comfortably
- fit comfortably but securely against the side of the face
- be secured to the head with ties or ear loops
- be made of a material that you find to be comfortable and breathable, such as cotton
- ideally include at least two layers of fabric (the World Health Organisation recommends three depending on the fabric used)
- unless disposable, it should be able to be washed with other items of laundry according to fabric washing instructions and dried without causing the face mask to be damaged

When wearing a face mask you should:

- wash your hands thoroughly with soap and water for 20 seconds or use hand sanitiser before putting a face mask on
- avoid wearing on your neck or forehead
- avoid touching the part of the face mask in contact with your mouth and nose, as it could be contaminated with the virus
- change the face mask if it becomes damp or if you've touched it
- avoid where possible taking it off and putting it back on a lot in quick succession

When removing a face mask:

- wash your hands thoroughly with soap and water for 20 seconds or use hand sanitiser before removing
- only handle the straps, ties or clips
- do not give it to someone else to use
- if single-use, dispose of it carefully in a residual waste bin and do not recycle
- if reusable, wash it in line with manufacturer's instructions at the highest temperature appropriate for the fabric
- wash your hands thoroughly with soap and water for 20 seconds or use hand sanitiser once removed

