

Executive Headteacher Mr D Gurney B.A. Hons / NPQH / NLE

Head of School Mrs S Roberts BSC. Hons / PGCE / NPQH

13th July 2020

Dear Parent/Carer,

Re: Preparations for September

As you may be aware on Thursday 2nd July 2020 the Government confirmed that all children and young people, in all year groups will return to school full time from the beginning of the autumn term. This guidance can be found here:

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

In addition to this guidance, the Government also published a guide for parent/carers:

<https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/what-parents-and-carers-need-to-know-about-early-years-providers-schools-and-colleges-during-the-coronavirus-covid-19-outbreak>

In response to Government guidance, we are delighted to be able to welcome all students back to the academy during the week commencing Monday 7th September 2020 and we will write to you in due course with the details of the September start date and time for your child's year group.

There are a number of important points within the guidance that parents/carers need to be aware of outlined below in preparation for the September 2020 start:

Travelling abroad over summer

We appreciate that some families may wish to travel abroad during the summer holiday. We urge you to carefully consider the timing of your holiday as it may be the case that quarantine measures are in place, depending where you have travelled to and the timing of the travel in relation to Government guidance. Please inform us of your child's personal circumstances where necessary.

From the start of the autumn term, Government guidance stipulates that school attendance will again be mandatory. This means that the legal duty as a parent/carers to send your child to school regularly will apply. Guidance for those children currently shielding can be found in Section 2 of the first document linked above. We all understand how vital it is that your child returns to school for their educational progress, wellbeing, and wider development. We are carefully planning the curriculum and further support for your child so that are able to make a successful transition back to school full-time.

Minimising risks at the academy

It remains of the utmost importance to us that we do everything we can as far as possible to reduce the risk of infection transmission in the academy. In our planning for students' return to the academy we will implement a hierarchy of controls that the Government outlines in detail within the: Guidance for full opening of schools. Heads of School will write to you to provide details of the specific measures that are in place including:

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- Regular hand washing/sanitising, including when students arrive at school, breaks and before and after eating.
- Ensuring good respiratory hygiene via the 'catch it, bin it, kill it' approach.
- Enhanced cleaning, including cleaning frequently touched surfaces more often.
- Staggered start/end times and different entrances/exits for different year groups.

We continue to act on Government guidance in order to reduce the risk of transmission of coronavirus by minimising contact and maintaining distance, as far as possible, between year groups.

The curriculum and learning

It is our intention that all students will receive a high-quality curriculum offer, yet there may be some limitations to the specialist classrooms/areas and activities that students are able to access.

Uniform

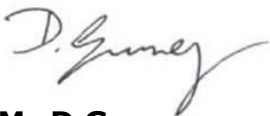
All students will be expected to wear full school uniform from the start of term in September. Parents/carers can only purchase uniform in preparation for the start of term via the online shop on the academy website, following which a 'click and collect' slot between 17th August and 4th September will be arranged via email. The link to the online shop, alongside sizing guides can be found via our website. Please be aware that uniform will not be available to purchase by visiting the main office or via a student purchasing uniform on the first day of term.

SIMS Parent App

We are launching a new communication app for parents/carers called SIMS Parent App which will be our main communication tool that will provide a range of information such as your child's attendance, school events, extra-curricular clubs. An email has been sent from the academy or from noreply@SIMS.co.uk to all parents/carers inviting you to download the app. Please contact academy as soon as possible if we do not currently have your up to date email address.

Over the coming weeks further information will be shared on the academy's website and wherever possible text/email/Facebook to alert parents/carers with important information. We would like to thank you once again for your continuous support and patience during this unprecedented time.

Yours sincerely,



Mr D Gurney
Executive Headteacher



Mrs S Roberts
Head of School