

8th June 2020

Dear Parent/Carer,

As noted, in my letter last week, the government have asked schools to work on some face-to face time for Year 10 students from the 15th June. Even before the announcement we have been making plans for the safe return to the Academy for our students. Over the past week we have been refining our plans and this letter briefly outlines the provision we will be making from the 15th June.

We are fully aware however that COVID remains a rapidly changing landscape. In relation to the R rate, I received clarification from Salford LA on Friday afternoon that currently Salford R rate is at the lower end of the NW figure of 1.01 (0.83-1.18). This is the same as the previous week. The advice (on guidance from PHE) is that because the rate in Salford remains lower than the rest of the region, schools and settings should remain open and continue as planned to increase access to other children as set out in DFE guidance.

Before I outline the key points, it is noted that our absolute priority is to ensure the safety and well-being of students and staff at the Academy. We have ensured that the school has been deep cleaned and measures have been put in place to make the Academy a safe place:

- ‘Sanitizing Stations’ around the Academy and in every classroom for staff and students to sanitize.
- Social distancing measures around the academy.
- All classrooms have been changed.

The Academy will continue to be cleaned throughout the day to maintain this safe environment.

More detailed information about the steps we have taken and the expectations of staff and students can be found on the academy website. In addition the Academy will also be hosting an online meeting for parents on Wednesday 10th June at 4pm to further outline measures the academy has taken for the safe return of students. Details on how to join the meeting will be available on the website.

Please be advised initially we will be offering 1:1 mentoring session to Year 10 students and all students will receive an e-mailed invite for their sessions no later than Thursday 11th June.

Week beginning the 15th June.

- Students will be invited in for a 20 minute individual meeting at an allocated time. The meeting will allow us to welcome students back and understand how we can best support a return.

Week beginning the 22nd June

- Students will be invited in for one small group session per week. The session will run from 10am – 1pm.
- Friday will be set aside for a second session should students and staff feel that they would benefit from further support.
- The sessions will include a mentoring session each week to ensure individual support.

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It is fair to say that in the first instance school will be very different and the sessions will have following characteristics

- Small teaching 'pods' of no more than 10 students.
- A single base room where students will be for the session.
- An individual seating plan with distanced desks.
- Provision of material at the desk as no equipment will be shared.
- A small teaching staff of four will be allocated to each group. Teachers will move to students.

We will also be running an induction for pupils on the first session that they attend. This will cover the new expectations on hand sanitising, social distancing, the new one-way system and our staying safe rules. A booklet will be sent home next week outlining this and will also be available to view on line.

The main delivery of content will still be done through setting work on Teams and via remote lessons. Access and support will be covered in the mentoring meetings with staff. Please be advised we have invested in the opportunity for all Year 10 students to receive a personal 'chrome book' for the duration of Year 11. This will ensure all students have equal access to on-line learning. Before a student can receive a chrome book, the completion of a home school agreement is required . This will be sent home with your child after their first mentoring meeting. Please ensure you read , sign and return the agreement with your child for the following week. It is very important that the signed agreement is returned to the Academy because without this no ICT equipment can be issued.

As mentioned previously we also note that there is no compulsion for students to attend the academy. It remains an uncertain time for many of us and we will completely respect your decision over any return to school. We would like to thank those parents who have responded to the survey indicating if you are intending to send you child back. The survey is still open and can be found at this link https://forms.office.com/Pages/ResponsePage.aspx?id=Thy0jhdn7kmsxytkD9zrB01OX9S4ePplrkuq6wETT_KBUQjROODhXUEFVOTJHMkrWSTQ4RUpaUjg0TS4u . Alternatively, a phone call will suffice. Please be advised we will not be making arrangements for students who have indicated a no to a return without a parental contact.

Thank you for your continued support at this time. We are looking forward to seeing our students again.

Kind Regards

Andy O'Brien
Executive Principal