

Dear parents

As you are aware over the past few weeks, we have been welcoming our students back into the Academy. It has been fantastic to see the students back meeting with the teachers and getting ready for a new start in September.

Obviously the past few months have been challenging on a number of levels for so many different people. I do hope that this letter finds you and your families in good health. We greatly appreciate all the work that you have also been doing to try and maintain education at home during the period of lockdown. Whilst we have been open as the school to the families of key workers, we know that the vast majority of our students have relied on you to support work that has been set online or sent in work packs.

We know that for the foreseeable future the pandemic will be one that remains challenging in so many different ways. As a school we are making plans for what September will look like for our students. There is no doubt that 'a new normal' will extend to all schools across the country. Whilst we will be writing to you with detailed opening arrangements over the summer period we would not already that school may well include staggered arrival, break and lunch times, year group zones and enhanced expectations of students in relation to hygiene.

I have been really pleased that over the last few weeks our live lessons have started to be accessed by a wide number of our students. The teachers in the Academy are actively building on this so that we can support students remotely should it be needed in the future. We have also as a school significantly invested in technology that can support students were access at home may be difficult for one of many reasons. We hope to ensure that all our students are able to access live lessons work that is set and extra revision sessions in the New Year.

To help our planning for September we would really like your feedback on things that we've done well and things that we could possibly improve. To that end we are taking part in surveys of parents, pupils and teachers run by United Learning and would like to hear your views as the school adapts to meet the challenges of the current situation. The main aim of this short survey is to understand how you feel about supporting your child with remote learning and what more could be done to help while the school is partially closed. All responses will be anonymous and will help the school to continue to improve the resources and communication we provide. We would be grateful if you could take a few minutes to complete the survey which will be open for one week, by clicking on [this link](#) and following the prompts.

On a final note, we will be writing to year 11 parents shortly outlining the GCSE results day. Due to the pandemic this will have to follow new arrangements this year with allocated time blocks for arrival. Whilst GCSE grades across the country will follow a new awarding pattern this year, I can honestly say that I have been extremely proud of the way students applied both in lockdown and throughout the year.

Once again I would like to thank you for the support during this difficult period.

Regards

Andy O'Brien