



July 2020

Dear Students, Parents and Carers,

September Whole School Opening

The government recently published its guidance for schools on full reopening for **all children** from September 2020. This is great news for our students who have been away from their classrooms and teachers for far too long.

We have been busily planning for our students' return. The guidance suggests that students are, as far as possible, kept in 'bubbles' avoiding contact with other bubbles throughout the school day.

Obviously, this is quite a challenge in a busy secondary school with over 800 students, especially at the start and end of the day, break, lunchtime and lesson changeover. To that effect school leaders have been working hard to create a brand-new timetable which keeps student bubbles apart as far as possible. Our planning, whilst allowing us to continue to offer a broad and balanced curriculum, also seeks to minimise student movement around the building.

We are currently planning for several scenarios that may present themselves at some point over the next school year:

1. The virus is no longer prevalent in society and therefore return to full normality,
2. Living with the virus and doing what is possible to minimise risk (The current expected scenario),
3. Another lockdown, local or national.

At the forefront of this planning is how we will maintain the very highest standards of safety, hygiene and cleanliness throughout the building so that any risk of transmission of the virus is minimised. To this effect we are staggering the return times so some students will return earlier than others so we can dedicate time and attention to each year group in training them on the new September Covid19 routines.

There are a number of principles driving our detailed planning now. Rigorous implementation of the Public Health England 'system of controls' will reduce the risk of transmission and so our actions will be driven by these. This will include:

- Making sure people who are ill stay at home. (Staff and pupils)
- Making sure that our immediate response to anyone at school displaying signs or symptoms of Covid-19 is secure and confident.
- Reviewing our systems and facilities to support robust hand and respiratory hygiene when all pupils and staff have returned to school.

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- Ensuring that all staff, parents, students and other members of our school community are aware of and sensitive to any additional risks to particular individual groups.
- Enhancing our cleaning regime and keeping these arrangements under constant review so that we can maintain a very high standard of hygiene across the school site.
- Maintaining social distancing and reducing contact where appropriate and wherever practical.
- Minimising access to school for visitors, particularly during school hours.
- Ensuring that all students and staff are aware of the measures that they can take to prevent the spread of the virus.

We are therefore following the latest government, DFE and Public Health England guidance and everything is governed by a full and thorough **Risk Assessment** – quality assured by United Learning and approved by our Governors' COVID-19 Committee. Once approved, the risk assessment will be made available on our school website for parents and students to view.

The Risk Assessment will be reviewed by the COVID-19 Committee on a regular basis and reviews will consider staff, student and parent feedback.

With the planning that is currently taking place right now I believe we will have everything in place for the students for their return in September and will write to families over the coming days and weeks with further details.

Proposed Year Group return dates which will be confirmed closer to September:

Year 7 - Thursday 3rd September at 08:45am

Year 8 - Monday 7th September at 08:45am

Year 9 - Wednesday 9th September at 08:45am

Year 10 - Tuesday 8th September at 08:45am

Year 11 - Thursday 3rd September at 09:45am

Summer Learning

Should you wish for your child to continue with learning over the summer break then I strongly recommend that you look at the resources below

There are also some excellent resources provided by the nationally acclaimed Oak

Academy [here](#) this high quality resource, along with new resources from [BBC bitesize](#) provide a host of exciting and interactive learning opportunities for students. Resources are age appropriate and are available for the vast majority of subjects right up to GCSE level.

The English and science resources from Oak National Academy even have our very own Ms Walker and Mr Humphries delivering online content.

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Behaviour Policy

As you are aware, the standards at The Albion Academy is a major factor in the many great successes the school and you have had together. I believe that we should all be polite, honest and hard-working individuals to get the very best from the opportunities that present to us.

In September the success of reopening to all will depend on the maturity and compliance of our amazing children and the support from our great parents. The behavioural policy will be updated and shared with all parents in due course to reflect the implications of Covid19.

Changes such as one-way systems, year group zones, importance of personal hygiene and following the 'Catch it, Bin it, Kill it' advice are all new. I ask that parents support the school in these new aspects of behaviour. For avoidance of doubt, I will enforce these rules.

Our uniform expectations remain the same. Children should wear their uniform with pride in September along with shoes (not trainers!) I have provided examples of acceptable shoes at the end of this document and highlighted which are the most popular varieties. Parents in other schools I have led have found these images to be particularly useful when shopping ready for the return to school so that you can show sales assistants precisely what is acceptable. If you are being asked to spend over £60 on a pair of shoes for school, I believe you are being asked to spend far too much. Equally, shops often place trainers in their 'Back to School' section in the hope that you will buy their old stock. Use the images below to your advantage.

Electronic devices and mobile phones

A reminder to parents, carers and pupils that in order to ensure the best learning environment for students The Albion Academy operates a strict '**No mobile phone**' policy. This means that the use of mobile phones is not permitted in any part of the Academy; either in lessons or during social times such as break or lunch time. Pupils seen using a mobile phone will have their device confiscated until a parent or carer collects it from the Academy.

Where learning is being impacted on a regular basis then we will work alongside parents and carers to reduce the disruption which may include removing device/phone upon entry to the building and returning it at the end of the day. This is to reaffirm that a school's primary function is about learning.

Should such items be lost or stolen the responsibility lies with the owner. Schools and Academies are not responsible for items brought in from home that may become damaged, lost or are stolen.

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Safeguarding updates

A] Keeping your child safe online during Covid-19

The DfE have produced a concise and easy to use document that helps parents to navigate their way through the online safety for their children. This document covers issues from safety settings that can be installed on home computers/devices to how to obtain help for more complex online abuse.

Many of the support strategies that are suggested have been signposted in previous letters to parents but please take the time to visit the website below so that you know how to respond to concerns. <https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/coronavirus-covid-19-keeping-children-safe-online>

As always, the excellent safeguarding team at The Albion Academy advocates parents having open and honest discussions about online activities to help your child understand the everyday dangers that are posed on the internet. And remember the mantra, 'it could happen to any child'.

B] Keeping your child safe from abuse and harm

The Albion Academy prides itself on being able to provide children with a safe place to be during school hours. However, the coronavirus pandemic has removed the day to day routine for school children and has unfortunately provided opportunities for children to be potentially at greater risk to possible harm and abuse. This is a national issue and in response the Government has produced an easy to navigate document for parents and carers to give you advice on how to prevent and support your child from the possible dangers.

The document covers issues from domestic abuse to criminal exploitation and can be found at: <https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/coronavirus-covid-19-keeping-children-safe-from-abuse-and-harm/advice-to-parents-and-carers-on-keeping-children-safe-from-abuse-and-harm>

It is worth all parents and carers familiarising themselves with the information on this website so that we can safeguard effectively within our homes.

Year 6 into Year 7 Transition update

We are confident that all of the changes made will enhance their first experiences as part of our community and look forward to welcoming our new Year 7 cohort of pupils on Thursday 3rd September at 08:45am. Staff will be available that morning to welcome your child into their new school for what will be an enjoyable two day transition festival of learning.

Your children are coming to a great school and we can't wait to welcome them into The Albion Family for what will hopefully, be a successful 5 years.

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PE Information for September

We are planning for students to wear their PE kit on the days that they have PE this is due to the issues that having multiple groups of children crossing over in the changing rooms presents a possible virus transmission point.

The Albion Academy PE kit will remain the same. Students are currently permitted to wear a badged polo shirt and Performance training and team wear shorts. They are allowed plain black jogging bottoms, base layer style leggings or plain black jumpers/hoodies.

Parents and Carers, you can obtain the school PE kit through the school finance office, at Mals Schoolwear and Whittakers Schoolwear. Please encourage your child to bring spare clothing and plastic bags in case of wet weather. This will prevent them from having to sit in school for the remainder of the day in wet clothing.

Mals Schoolwear has moved

Mals has moved from the shopping precinct to the following address:

77 Pendleton Way, Salford, M6 5FW.

This is the old 'Connexions' office, opposite Tesco and right around the corner from 'Kingfisher' Chip Shop.

Finally, I would like to wish you all a safe and pleasant summer. I look forward to welcoming your child in September.

Kind Regards

Mr Jason Roberts
Principal

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Appendix 1 – Acceptable school footwear. Shoes circled in green are the more popular styles



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