



3<sup>rd</sup> September 2020

Dear Parents/Carers,

I hope you and your child have had an enjoyable summer holiday so far, and are feeling ready for the return to the academy. We are very much looking forward to safely welcoming all our students back from next week. We have staggered the start days and times so that we can ensure the safety of your child and staff with a view to following Government guidelines.

We would be very grateful if you will be patient with us as we return under unusual and unprecedented circumstances especially since advice changes frequently as we learn more about Covid-19. We will warmly welcome your child back and we ask **that you and your child follow the social distancing rules, one-way systems, start and finish times and PPE rules and advice.** This will ensure that all, including our vulnerable staff and pupils are kept safe. We have been very busy reviewing our behaviour systems, assessment and curriculum to ensure they are fit for purpose in order to raise your child's academic progress and bridge any gaps in their learning. We are always grateful for the support you give the academy and your child at home in helping them achieve more and engage.

### **Face Masks:**

Ahead of this, I wanted to write to you today to provide an update on the wearing of face coverings in and around school, following an recent [update to Government guidance released](#) . The Department for Education has said the use of face coverings in schools 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 coverings 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 pupils, parents and staff may feel more comfortable if they have the option to wear a face covering on their return to the academy in September if necessary, including in areas where social distancing may not always be possible. Whilst not compulsory, face coverings will therefore be permitted where appropriate. This includes communal areas but will not necessarily be needed within the classroom where there will be social distancing and social bubbles in action. If a student or staff member does strongly feel that they would like to wear a face covering in the classroom, however, then appropriate arrangements can be made.





It is very important that when wearing a face covering at the academy, 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 coverings, additional information is included at the end of this letter and I would also encourage you to read the following Government guidance: <https://bit.ly/3guiK61>

Additionally, as they are not mandatory in areas of low transmission and your child should already have an appropriate face covering for other settings such as shops, they will need to be provided by yourselves, rather than the academy. We would ask that the face coverings are multiple use, are as plain as possible, and are non-branded.

### PE:

To ease movement, pupils will be required to wear their PE kit on the day they have PE. All PE lessons will be carried out outside so please ensure you have a spare set of PE kit, including shoes, left at the academy in case of bad weather. Pupils will be able to wear tracksuit bottoms and long sleeve sportswear. Pupils will be informed of when their PE lesson is on their return so a PE will not be needed for the first week back.

I am so sorry that I am unable to meet you all or even hold a face-to-face event to address you all as the new Principal. I am sure over time, following our busy return and when restrictions are lifted, I will be able to meet you and get to know you all.

We completely appreciate that these continue to be extraordinary times, and whilst the return to the academy 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 pupils, 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 the academy come September.

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

Yours sincerely,

Ms S. Siva  
Principal





### How to wear a face covering

#### **A face covering 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 covering to be damaged

#### **When wearing a face covering you should:**

- wash your hands thoroughly with soap and water for 20 seconds or use hand sanitiser before putting a face covering on
- avoid wearing on your neck or forehead
- avoid touching the part of the face covering in contact with your mouth and nose, as it could be contaminated with the virus
- change the face covering 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 covering:**

- 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



### **Just a few reminders**

All children will need to bring a packed lunch to the academy every day, if your child is entitled to Free School Meals or is in Reception, Year 1 or Year 2 they are able to order a free packed lunch with the academy kitchen.

Water is available at the academy but we ask all pupils to bring their own named water bottle.

Uniform reminder:-

#### **Girls**

##### **Reception, Year 1 and Year 2**

- Plain white polo shirt, blouse or shirt with collar.
- Black trousers/skirt
- Academy branded jumper

##### **Years 3, 4, 5 and 6**

- Plain white shirt or blouse with collar
- Black trousers/skirt
- Cotton dress in purple/white during summer term only if preferred.
- Academy branded jumper

#### **Boys**

##### **Reception, Year 1 and Year 2**

- Plain white polo shirt or shirt .
- Black trousers/shorts (shorts during Summer term only)
- Academy branded jumper

##### **Years 3, 4, 5 and 6**

- Plain white shirt
- Black trousers/shorts (shorts during Summer term only)
- Academy branded jumper

*In addition to the above Years 3, 4, 5 and 6 must wear an academy tie.*

Jumpers can be bought directly from the uniform supplier, Harrisons. You can order jumpers, cardigans, bookbags and PE bags from Harrisons either by contacting them on 01493 662214 or by visiting their website <https://hschoolwear.co.uk/>

Ties, coloured PE t-shirts and swim hats (year 5) may be purchased from the academy office.

As a part of our academy uniform, it is unacceptable for children to have any patterns shaved into their hair.

#### **Shoes**

Shoes should be conventional black school shoes that keep out the wet (not training shoes). Shoes with narrow or high heels are not allowed as they cause damage to the wearer's feet and to the floors. Boots are not acceptable.

