

5 March 2021

Dear Parent/Carer

Firstly I would like to give my thanks to you for your understanding and support during this recent lock down in what we can hopefully see as the promising start to a gradual easing of a lock down and fully return to the 'new normal'. Whilst it is our intention to get all students back into normal lessons in the academy as soon as possible, our primary focus must be on ensuring that the academy is a safe environment and we have limited the transmission of the virus within our community. As promised in my introduction letter last week, I have outlined my expectation of students below:

In almost all cases our control measures remain unchanged from earlier in the academic year and we will continue to remind students of the importance to regularly wash their hands, to socially distance from each other when possible and to make use of hand sanitisers throughout the academy.

Face masks

The government guidance now states that students should wear face coverings in all areas within the academy where social distancing may be difficult. **This includes within classrooms.** The usual medical exemptions will still apply to this advice. If students have a specific reason that they should be exempt from this rule please can you ensure that the learning managers are aware. This will avoid the student being challenged throughout the day. It is the responsibility of the parent, or carer to ensure that their child has an appropriate face covering in the academy.

Students will be expected to wear their face masks as they pass staff on the gate in the morning. I would strongly advise that they wear their mask as they approach the gate. This will dispel any anxieties that the surrounding community may have during this time. Students will then need to continue to wear their masks during lessons.

During lunch time students will need to wear their masks when entering the Dining Hall, when queuing and paying for food. Students will then be able to remove their masks once they are seated and ready to eat.

The start and end time of the day will remain the same. Students will be expected to wear their masks when leaving the academy grounds.

On behalf of all staff, we are looking forward to students returning and I expect that the majority of students are excited to return to the academy and resume the social interaction with their friends, which they have missed since the beginning of this lockdown. Our form tutors, learning managers and inclusion staff will be on hand to support students with as much care as they need every day. If you have not already done so, please do share any concerns with us so that we can respond quickly to any issues that arise.

As stated in my previous letter, change cannot be achieved in isolation. It is important that we continue to work together in supporting our children on their return to school, ensuring they are safe, respectful and fully engaged with their learning.

Yours faithfully



Ian Cooper
Head of School