

10<sup>th</sup> June 2020

**RE: Year 10 Partial re-opening – 15<sup>th</sup> June**

Dear Year 10 Parent and Carers,

I hope that this letter finds you and your family safe and well during these unprecedented times.

Following on from the government's decision to open schools more widely, I am now writing to confirm that we will be welcoming back **Year 10 students** in small groups from Monday 15 June 2020. We are not permitted to have more than 25% of the total number of students in these year groups in at any one time and will therefore be operating on a rota basis.

In order to best protect your child and our staff, we have put a number of temporary measures in place. Whilst I have attempted to summarise the most important information you need to be aware of, this letter naturally contains many details which need your careful attention. **Please ensure you discuss the following with your child before they return to the academy:**

- **Keeping your child safe**

Our Estates team have been working tirelessly with us to ensure all possible protective measures are in place.

Our aim is to reduce as much interaction as possible through containing students and staff in 'bubbles' as groups. Measures such as 2m distancing in classrooms, one-way systems around the academy and more focus on hygiene routines will be in place from 15 June. All of these additional measures are laid out in detail in a comprehensive suite of risk assessments. These will be available on our academy website later this week.

We have also added some temporary procedures to our standard policies, including safeguarding and behaviour. Our Home Academy Agreement has been amended so that we can all continue to work together to keep your child safe. The addendum to this agreement is attached to this letter.

- **Attendance expectations**

If a member of your household is displaying symptoms related to Coronavirus (cough, shortness of breath or difficulty breathing, fever, chills, muscle pain, sore throat, new loss of taste or smell) please do not send them into school. You can access testing through the NHS website. If anyone in your household is positively tested for Coronavirus, your child should not return to the academy for 14 days.

Children who are classed as clinically extremely vulnerable (please check the following website for an up to date list: <https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/guidance-on-shielding-and-protecting-extremely-vulnerable-persons-from-covid-19/guidance-on-shielding-and-protecting-extremely-vulnerable-persons-from-covid-19>) should not return to the academy. If someone else in your household is classed as extremely vulnerable, you should only return your child to school if you believe your child can stringently adhere to social/physical distancing measures and follow all instructions to maintain paramount safety.

If your child is clinically vulnerable but not on the above list, please seek medical advice before making your decision whether they should attend.

Whilst our desire is to welcome all Year 10 students back, we completely understand that you will be anxious about whether your child will be safe in the current circumstances. I want to be clear that you will not be held to account in the normal manner should you choose not to send your child to the academy during this unprecedented time. We may make calls home to check on the safety of children who can be in the academy and are not. However, I can confirm that the government has made it official that no action (including fines) will be taken for non-attendance.

For Year 10 students, the academy day will start at 10:00am and end at 1:00pm each day. However, students will attend the academy for these tutorial sessions on alternate days, partaking in a timetable of tutorials over a two-week period. Students will only attend the academy on the days they are expected to, determined by which half of the year group they are a part of (Q or Z):

	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday
Week 1	(Z) Eng	(Q) Maths	(Z) Science	(Q) Hums	(Z) MFL*
Week 2	(Q) Eng	(Z) Maths	(Q) Science	(Z) Hums	(Q) MFL*

***\*Please note that if your child does not study MFL, they will not attend the academy on Friday.***

This timetable comes into effect on Monday 15<sup>th</sup> June and will operate for four weeks. Arrangements for week beginning 13<sup>th</sup> July will be communicated nearer the time and will feature some provision of Options subjects.

It is very unlikely that the academy will be opening to any other students for the remainder of this academic year and we will continue to provide home learning resources until we can invite them back. We regret to confirm that brothers and sisters of Year 10 students will not be able to attend the academy unless they fall into either of the other two categories for attendance.

It is important to note that if we do not have enough staff to safely supervise all of the children attending (this may be because of increased demand for key worker places or staff sickness), we may have to retract the offer for some students to attend the academy on certain days and revert to Distance Learning again. We will obviously give you as much notice as possible, where possible, if this situation arises.

- **Uniform expectations**

We do not expect children to wear academy uniform during the remainder of this academic year but ask that your child wears clean, smart-casual clothes every day and sensible footwear.

- **Transport**

Wherever possible, your child should avoid public transport. Walking and cycling would be the preferred methods of transport.

If you are bringing your child by car, please be considerate to our academy neighbours and park in a safe manner.

- **Dropping your child off and picking up**

To best protect against social gathering at the start and end of the academy day, we have amended our start and end times. Students must arrive at the academy as close to the allotted time as possible and maintain a social distance from other students. We have also allotted different entry and exit points to the academy for different groups of children. Your child's access point will be:

**Q Band** – Lower School Playground gate (near Reception)

**Z Band** – Upper School Playground gate (near Sports Block)

As normal, a member of staff will welcome your child at the academy gates each morning.

During the day, we may check your child's temperature, including on entry to the academy. Should the reading indicate that they have a high temperature, you will be required to take your child home.

- **Equipment provisions**

To minimise the sharing of equipment within the academy environment, we have identified some resources that will not be in use during this extraordinary time. Our curriculum has been adapted to take account of this. Your child will be provided with the stationery they need to complete their work and this will be stored in the classroom allocated to their groups. With students always working in the same room on the days they are in, we can ensure that the stationery provided will be stored safely for only them to use.

- **Parental visits**

To ensure we minimise the amount of individuals entering the academy site, we ask that parents do not enter the site for ad-hoc meetings. If you need to speak to anyone, please call our academy reception and a relevant member of staff will be in touch.

I am looking forward to welcoming Year 10 students to a new form of learning from Monday and confident that with your support, we can further enhance the progress made since our enforced closure. I know that this period has been challenging for many families and thank you for your understanding and cooperation during this time. I hope that we can now overcome any remaining challenges together.

Yours faithfully,



Mr K. Uppal  
**Principal**