



Nunthorpe Academy

17 July 2020

Dear Parent(s) /Carers

Thank you all for your support in the last few months of school closure and for your patience in awaiting this letter detailing whole academy reopening for September 2020 as directed by the Department for Education. The last few months have been difficult in establishing a whole new way of learning and communicating with all members of our academy community and returning presents us with a number of challenges in an old building not designed for the newly required model.

All students who are returning in September will find a significant number of changes to the academy, these include staggered start and finish times, year group tutor groups rather than mixed vertical tutor groups, 5 separate year group 20 minute break and 30 minute lunch times, minimal movement around the academy or even year group teaching areas for KS3, designated year group teaching spaces where the teachers move around the academy and students remain in year group bubbles. All of these changes have been made to comply with the guidance received from the Department for Education and amended risk assessments to keep each child and member of staff as low risk from possible infection of Covid-19 as is possible.

Students and staff will need to comply and follow new routines and systems and develop new habits, with regimented and directed arrival/leaving times and entrance/exit through specific gates, guided routes to year group teaching areas to prevent mixing with other year groups, constant good hygiene practices of hand washing and using sanitiser on entry and exit from classrooms, social spaces and toilets, only touching and using their own equipment, following instructions during lesson changeovers whether completing lesson transition work or moving to another classroom within the designated area, safe use of specific and directed social areas, lunch serving and seated areas and toilets.

Many of the new systems are a continuation and extension from the Year 10 and key workers groups which have been established and proved effective for the last couple of months. Frequent monitoring, review and action will be required to ensure the new model is fit for purpose and allows all students to reengage with learning, build their confidence back in a busy, purposeful learning environment and make progress in all areas of their curriculum. We will be delivering a full curriculum to all students as per our curriculum intent prior to lockdown and focusing heavily on student well-being in our tutor session and Life programme.

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Pastoral System

To be able to follow guidance and establish year group 'bubbles' it has been essential to temporarily suspend our vertical tutoring and House group model and to move to a year group model. This involves the following changes to the leadership structure of the pastoral system, the tutors from each of the Houses will move with the leader of each House to ensure high expectations and consistency.

House Team 2019-20	Progress Leader	Senior Pastoral Manager	Assistant Pastoral Manager	Year Group September 2020
Triumph	Mrs Thomas	Mrs Jackson	Mrs Davison	7
Invincible		Mr Wilding	Ms Oakley	8
Endeavour		Mr Deen	Ms Yau	9
Valiant		Mrs Shackleton	Mr Harrison	10
Victory	Mr Purcifer		Mrs Chew Ms Bell	11
Year 12		Ms Jackson	Mr Chuhan	12
Year 13		Ms Jackson	Mr Chuhan	13

If you have any questions or queries, please do not hesitate to contact your son or daughter's Pastoral Managers. Their email addresses are as follows:

Year 7

Triumph

Senior Pastoral Manager: Mrs Jackson mjackson@nunthorpe.co.uk
Assistant Pastoral Manager: Mrs Davidson ldavidson@nunthorpe.co.uk

Year 8

Invincible

Senior Pastoral Manager: Mr Wilding awilding@nunthorpe.co.uk
Assistant Pastoral Manager: Ms Oakley loakley@nunthorpe.co.uk

Year 9

Endeavour

Senior Pastoral Manager: Mr Deen cdeen@nunthorpe.co.uk
Assistant Pastoral Manager: Miss Yau cyau@nunthorpe.co.uk

Year 10

Valiant

Senior Pastoral Manager: Mrs Shackleton fshackleton@nunthorpe.co.uk
Assistant Pastoral Manager: Mr Harrison jharrison@nunthorpe.co.uk

Year 11

Victory

Progress Leader: Mr Purcifer spurcifer@nunthorpe.co.uk
Assistant Pastoral Manager: Mrs Chew schew@nunthorpe.co.uk
Assistant Pastoral Manager: Mrs Bell jbelle@nunthorpe.co.uk

Attendance

From September 2020, the government have stipulated that attendance is mandatory for all students. Shielding is to be suspended as of 1 August 2020 subject to a continued decline in the rates of community transmission of coronavirus. As such we expect to see all students in the academy.



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The academy attendance policy will be reapplied from September with our target of at least 96% attendance for the year. For context, 5% of missed school is equal to 10 days- a significant period of time which can deeply impact on the progress and attainment of students. Where an absence is necessary, parents/carers should contact the academy to inform us of the absence. Our attendance and pastoral team will contact families directly if a student does not attend.

In the event of a student having coronavirus symptoms (high temperature, new persistent cough, loss of taste or smell) parents/carers should inform the school immediately and make arrangements for the child to be tested by visiting the following website: <https://www.nhs.uk/conditions/coronavirus-covid-19/> or call the NHS on 119.

If the test is positive, the academy should be informed immediately and the student should self-isolate for 7 days, starting from the onset of symptoms. The rest of the household should self-isolate for 14 days. The academy in such a scenario will inform local public health protection teams for further support and guidance.

Where a student is absent due to a self-isolation, online learning resources will be made available which reflect the content being covered over that period. Pastoral staff will be in contact with parents/carers to support this.

Our attendance policy has been amended to reflect the above and will be reviewed on a half termly basis to reflect the changing government guidance. A copy of our policy can be found at: <https://www.nunthorpe.co.uk/content/uploads/2017/05/attendance-july2019.pdf>. Any further questions regarding attendance can be passed to Clare O'Neill, the academy attendance officer cloneill@nunthorpe.co.uk or Kate Cruickshank, Assistant Vice Principal, Behaviour and Attitudes kcruckshank@nunthorpe.co.uk

Student Expectation and Conduct

Our expectations surrounding student conduct remain as high as ever but we are also mindful that the vast majority of our students have not been in a classroom environment for a significant period of time. We appreciate that there will be a period of reacclimatising to being in the academy and relearning what it means to be in a classroom again. As such, we would like parents and cares to share the behaviour policy with students prior to September to remind them of our expectations.

Within the behaviour policy, we have made some Covid-19 based amendments which reflect the current circumstances. These have been clearly marked in green and include behaviours which are not appropriate/are unsafe in the current climate. These amendments will be reviewed on a half termly basis, in line with the changing government guidance.

When we return in September, students can expect their tutor to spend some time going through the Covid-19 specific amendments to ensure that everyone understands our expectations but also, and more importantly understands why we have had to add them.



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A copy of our Behaviour policy can be found at: <https://www.nunthorpe.co.uk/our-academy/policies/behaviour/>. Any further questions relating to behaviour and student expectations can be directed to either the pastoral team or Kate Cruickshank, Assistant Vice Principal, Behaviour and Attitudes kcruickshank@nunthorpe.co.uk

Face Masks

As per DfE guidance, NMAT academies have a process regarding the removal of face coverings on arrival at their academy. This is for staff and students. Students will be instructed not to touch the front of their face covering during use or when removing them. Students must wash their hands or use hand sanitiser immediately on arrival. They must dispose of temporary face coverings in a covered bin or place reusable face coverings in their bag to take home with them. They must then wash their hands or use hand sanitiser again before heading to their classroom. This guidance is supported by Public Health England.

“Public Health England does not (based on current evidence) recommend the use of face coverings in schools. This evidence will be kept under review. They are not required in schools as pupils and staff are mixing in consistent groups, and because misuse may inadvertently increase the risk of transmission. There may also be negative effects on communication and thus education”.

The Trust will comply with the guidance at this time, but have agreed to monitor this situation on an ongoing basis and will review their approach as appropriate in response to any additional guidance from the DfE and/or Public Health England.

Equipment

All students will be expected to carry their belongings with them in a secure school bag and will not have access to a locker for the foreseeable future due to the need to limit movement and be allocated to year group areas. We will arrange time slots in September for students to access their locker from last year and remove their belongings, if they did not do this in March, no access prior to arranged times will be approved.

Students will be required to have the following equipment every day for school:

- Planner (this will be provided on their first day back at school)
- Pencil case (clear for KS4)
- Stationary (including black/blue pen, pencil, pencil sharpener, ruler, rubber, coloured pencils and highlighters)
- Math equipment – Calculator (scientific) self-centering compass and 180^o protractor
- Reading book (at the current time there will be no student access to the academy library this must be provided from home)

Unfortunately due to current Covid-19 restrictions the academy will be unable to provide any equipment. Therefore, it is paramount students are equipped every day or it could affect their own learning.

It is advised that all students bring a filled water bottle to the academy each day. This maybe water (this can be drank in lessons) or non-fizzy juice for break and lunch time only. Students



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will be unable to re-fill any bottles due to Covid-19 restrictions. They will be able to purchase drinks from the catering team at lunch, if necessary.

During break students will be within a designated area with their year group. Students will be unable to purchase food or drink at break time, but they may bring their own refreshments to consume (please note: sweets should not be brought into the academy, fizzy drinks or energy drinks at any time).

Uniform

Thank you for your ongoing support of our extremely high expectations with regard to uniform standards. These high standards are helping to support the productive learning environment our students' experience. [Due to the temporary changes to the House system we will provide every student with the relevant new year group coloured tie. These will be handed out on their first day back in September. If you have purchased a new tie already please retain it for when we return to our previous model when/if appropriate. All other uniform will remain the same.](#)

Prior to buying new uniform over the holiday period, and returning in September please take note of the points below:

- Skirts must be knee length and can be pleated or straight with only one slit at the back-lycra / 'stretch' material is not permitted.
- Trousers must be charcoal grey, and must not be too tight or made from lycra / 'stretch' material.
- Plain black school shoes are required at all times. Training shoes or boots are not permitted.

Please also understand the following standards expectations:

- Make-up is not permitted for KS3 students (Year's 7-9) and only discreet foundation for KS4 (Year 10 & Year 11) is allowed.
- Fake tan, false nails or nail varnish and eyebrow/eyelash tinting are not permitted.
- Extreme haircuts are not permitted and therefore, cannot be shorter than a 'Blade 2' on the top, have any tramlines shaved in or be dyed any unnatural colours.
- Piercings – Students are permitted to wear up to one pair of plain round metal studs in their lower ear lobe. No other piercings are permitted in the academy at any time.
- Hoodies are not permitted in the academy at any time (apart from the PE hoody for PE lessons only). We recommend students wear a coat over their blazer especially in the winter months. This enables students to remain warm and dry and the blazer to be worn comfortably all day.

We understand due to some restrictions to access Ross' (our uniform supplier) and delays to orders, we will accept some elements of Nunthorpe logoed uniform may not be available for our September start. In this situation, please be rest assured we will have full understanding and hope we can work together to rectify this by the end of September. For example if the blazer is unavailable, students are permitted to wear a plain navy blue V neck jumper. We also have a supply of nearly new uniform and can loan students items until orders are fulfilled. Please contact the appropriate pastoral manager (year team) to discuss any uniform issues.



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Should the Senior Leadership Team or the Pastoral Team deem that a student is not complying with the Academy expectations in relation to standards (e.g. a skirt that is too short, or trouser are too tight) they will be given a reasonable deadline by which to rectify the situation.

If you have any queries regarding uniform or standards, please refer to our website: www.nunthorpe.co.uk, where photographs and details are stored to support parents when making choices regarding clothing items.

Lunchtime facilities

Our lunchtime service will be provided by Dolce catering company. Dolce will be offering a full menu over 5 separate year group lunchtimes of 30 minutes each. The areas for service will be explained to students on their first day in September. Students will continue to pay using their biometric fingerprint (sanitising provisions will be explained) which will require funds placed on students accounts via the Parent Pay system parentpay@NMAT.co.uk prior to Wednesday 2 September. Students are also able to select to bring a packed lunch which they will eat with the rest of their year group. All year groups will be seated together, there will be no alternative seating arrangements.

Any new year 7 parents with queries in relation to either of the points above need to refer to their Induction pack which contains consent forms and information about our biometrics system and parent pay. Alternatively please email any queries to transition@nunthorpe.co.uk

Learning Support

Learning Support Assistants will be allocated to specific year groups to be able to continue supporting key students requiring identified support through their EHCP. This will allow these members of staff to support in the most effective way without putting themselves or others at risk by transferring between year group bubbles.

Inclusion base support Students who have previously accessed Inclusion at the academy due to specific medical needs, exemption from specific subjects to further support literacy and numeracy, and small group LSA support, will continue to be allowed to access Inclusion for their timetabled slots, however both staff and students must be aware that this is a mixed year group provision and students will therefore be identified as belonging to two 'bubbles' within the academy day for the limited sessions they need to attend. If you would prefer for your child to only remain within their year group bubble please email Benita Shaw, Assistant Vice Principal, Inclusion bshaw@nunthorpe.co.uk for us to consider alternative options within the classroom.

Parent / Carer communication

Where possible we request that parents/carers contact teaching staff directly in relation to any subject specific issues, or the relevant pastoral staff for more general questions, via email in the first instance. All staff email addresses are available via the academy website <https://www.nunthorpe.co.uk/our-academy/staff/> All staff are expected to reply to any emails within 48 hours of its receipt.



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At the current time we request that parents/carers do not turn up to the academy reception without agreement as it will not be possible for staff to conduct face to face meetings at this point. A phone call or Zoom call will be arranged if a meeting is required which cannot be resolved via email. Please ensure a contact number is shared when emailing staff if a phone call is required.

Transport

Government guidelines in relation to transport must be followed. If a student can walk or cycle to the academy this is the preferred mode of transport and adhering to arrival time slots is essential to keep year groups in 'bubbles'. Guidance on wearing face masks on public transport must be adhered to if there is no alternative mode of transport. Further guidance on face coverings will be issued in due course depending on guidelines by the end of August. Updates will be shared via the academy website and social media from 17 August 2020 onwards.

September staggered reopening:

Tuesday 1 September

Wednesday 2 September

Thursday 3 September

Friday 4 September

PD Day (academy closed to all students)

Year 7 and 12 only (Transition days KS2-3 and KS4-5)

Year 10, 11 and 13 join Years 7 and 12

Year 8 and 9 join all other year groups

Please refer to the appropriate year group document to ensure you know the correct start day, date and time for your child in September. We have built in a phased transition period for all year groups to ensure that they have extended tutor time with their new tutor, team and teachers and understand all of the requirements of a safe reopening for all at the academy.

Frequently Asked Questions

I have attached a FAQ document with this letter and year group timetables to try to answer a number of further questions. I will add to and re-share this document as appropriate.

Thank you for your ongoing support for our academy and therefore your child's education and wellbeing, it is very much appreciated!

We hope that all students and their families have a restful, safe and happy summer holiday and we look forward to welcoming all students back to the academy in September.

Take care

Yours sincerely

Kate Kell
Head of School

KK/JSO