

Dear Parents and Carers

Another wonderful week of having students back in the academy and learning in a calm and positive environment with minimum fuss about the increased Covid requirements and expectations. This week all students have received a virtual welcome back assembly from me and thanked for their positive return. Reminders have been given about our high expectations and standards; encouragement to use the return as a positive and fresh start and making the right choices for a successful future, alongside numerous wellbeing activities during form time. As I have visited all tutor groups this week there is a positive 'buzz' as students are starting to get back into their routines and Year 11 intervention tutor sessions have been incredibly focused. Students have one more full week to get back into good routines before we break up for the Easter period on Friday 26 March. It is great to see the 'wearing of red' in response to the Comic Relief fundraising efforts today. Images are available on the website and contributions can be made via Parent pay should you wish to support.

Communications this week: Numerous individual and year group letters have been shared this week in relation to the following:

Home Testing – Thank you for the overwhelming support with supervised and now home testing. All students who had consent had 3 supervised tests are now bringing their first 6 tests home to be taken on a Monday and Thursday morning. All results must be reported to the academy and the NHS (see website or paper copy handed out with test kits). Additional testing kits will be shared next week to ensure that testing continues throughout the Easter break and all students are able to return on Monday 12 April.

Year 11 – Centre Assessed Grading – the next steps from the Year 11 Progress Lead. (see website). More information will follow in due course.

Year 13 – Centre Assessed Grading – the next steps from the Head of Sixth Form. (see website). More information will follow in due course.

We appreciate that the coming term will be very different for Year 11 and 13 who were preparing to sit final exams and we hope the content of their letters reassure how assessments will be completed and reduce any anxiety, whilst we await further information from the exam and awarding bodies to finalise all processes to ensure our students receive the grades that reflect their application and ability.

Summer Term begins Monday 12 April:

In preparation for a full (and hopefully uninterrupted) Summer Term please can I draw the following points to your attention in preparation for a smooth start and positive attitude to learning for the final term of the year.

Uniform:

SLT and Pastoral Managers will be conducting student standards checks week commencing Monday 22 March to monitor uniform infringements and address inappropriate jewellery/make-up.

We would like parents/carers to review the Uniform Policy, available on our academy website to ensure your child is meeting our uniform expectations. Tutors will be contacting home regarding any uniform/standard issues. Our goal is all infringements can be put right by Monday 12 April. If you are experiencing any problems regarding replacing uniform items by Monday 12 April, please email your child's pastoral manager before Friday 26 March for support, we do have nearly new uniform available in the academy.

Main Uniform/Standard Infringements include:

- Trainers – Students require plain black school shoes
- Skirts – Skirts should be grey and if a straight style is chosen, only one slit at the back and it should be knee length
- Trousers – Grey – not skinny fit
- Jewellery – Students are permitted to wear a watch and one pair of plain metal stud earrings in the lower lobe of the ear
- Hair – Hair should be one natural colour
- Make-up – Year 10 and Year 11 are permitted to wear discreet foundation only. Students in years 7-9 are not allowed to wear makeup.

Please support us at the academy by helping to address these issues prior to your child leaving the house on a morning as this prevents a negative conversation at the start of the day when we would prefer to be welcoming all of our students and sharing positives. Let's all look smart and learn smart!

Start of the Academy Day:

Due to the efficiency of students arriving and entering the academy since returning we will be moving to the following start of the day arrangements from Monday 12 April to regain time lost for some year groups:

Year 7 - 8:20am -8:30am – Turnstile Gate (Same arrangements).

At 8:35am a student will be marked as Late, if they are not in their tutor room and sat down ready to start the day.

Year 8 - 8:30am – 8:40am - Reception Gate (Same gate, slightly earlier time).

At 8:45am a student will be marked as Late, if they are not in their tutor room and sat down ready to start the day.

Year 9 – 8:40am-8:50am – Barrier Gate (Same gate, earlier time).

At 8:55am a student will be marked as Late, if they are not in their tutor room and sat down ready to start the day.

Year 10 - 8:30am – 8:40am - Barrier Gate (Same gate, earlier time).

At 8:45am a student will be marked as Late, if they are not in their tutor room and sat down ready to start the day.

Year 11- 8:20am -8:30am – Barrier Gate (Same gate and time).

At 8:35am a student will be marked as Late, if they are not in their tutor room and sat down ready to start the day.

Many thanks for your continued support.

Take care and stay safe

Kate Kell
Head of School