

11 June 2020

Dear Parent / Carers,

COVID-19 Update

I am writing to update you regarding our plans for wider re-opening. Staff have been working hard behind the scenes to prepare the school to welcome back as many children and young people as can safely be cared for. I want to take this opportunity to say thank-you for your patience and support.

I am pleased to say that we are completing our risk assessments and have a plan that will enable us to gradually increase the number of children attending the school, while still maintaining a high level of safety for pupils, staff and their families.

We will be continuing to offer our home learning provision and links to other resources for those pupils remaining at home. These are suggestions and ideas to help you and your child during these unprecedented and challenging times, please only use them if you find them useful.

Children and young adults, or those they live with, who are in the clinically vulnerable or extremely clinically vulnerable group should continue to stay at home, as this remains the safest place for them.

Our individual pupil risk assessments have allowed us to determine whether we can accommodate each pupil with an acceptable reduction of risk.

What will happen:

- Small bubbles of staff and pupils will return to school on a part time basis (initially a shortened school day twice a week). This part time schedule will allow more pupils to access the provision and maintain a safe environment for everyone. We will continuously assess this situation and we hope that the numbers we can accommodate will increase over time. Any decision made will be based on Government advice and our own assessments of the provision we can safely offer within school
- Bubbles will have a maximum of 5 pupils and 4 adults at any one time. The pupils and staff in the bubbles will stay the same area to reduce the risk of transmission
- The bubbles will have one classroom and an allocated outside area, pupils and staff will not move around school freely
- Families will still receive free school meal vouchers if eligible
- We will be unable to heat food in the 'bubbles', so families will be asked to provide a packed lunch, snacks and a bottle of water for their child (with their name on it)
- Staff will wear PPE (apron, mask and gloves) when supporting pupils with personal care
- Staff may choose to wear PPE throughout the day

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- We plan that the number of bubbles in school will increase gradually, providing it is assessed as safe to do so
- We will let families know if we are able to offer a part-time place the week before the placement is available. We will give as much notice as possible
- The Academy will be separated into zones to limit movement and contact with other groups and we will have a one-way system in place
- If pupils are on the campus over the lunch break, they will eat in their bubble with staff and pupils
- If any pupil displays behaviours that may put themselves, other pupils or staff at risk e.g. biting, spitting, scratching they may need to be sent home (This will form part of their risk assessment).
- If a member of the bubble displays symptoms, the whole bubble will be isolated and parents will be contacted to collect children immediately. If it is confirmed, the bubble will be closed.

It is important to note that:

- We cannot guarantee that other pupils will always keep a social distance from your child or young adult. Most of our pupils are unable to understand or comply with social distancing and are naturally social, and gravitate towards each other and staff
- We cannot eliminate the possibility that your child or young adult may be exposed to the virus at school
- The current government guidelines do not require your child/young adult to return to school and we fully understand if you do not wish to take up any offer that you may be given
- You will not be fined if you choose not to send your child or young adult back to school

Myself and the staff continue to wish, more than anything, for everyone to be back in school with our learning community together again. However, this will only happen when it is safe to do so and following the guidance given by our government, our Trust and the Local Authority.

Thank-you for working in partnership with the school through this difficult time and whilst we are starting to plan an increased number of pupils in school, please bear with us. Our highest priority is achieving government expectations, whilst also maintaining the highest possible level of safety for pupils, parents and staff.

Yours sincerely

Antony Clements
Interim Headteacher