



Ormiston Sheffield

Community Academy

Ref. MR/MC
25 August 2020

Dear Parent/Carer

As we come to the end of a very difficult academic year, I want to start by thanking you for your support during the COVID-19 Virus pandemic. It has been a challenging year for all of us and your support has been very much appreciated.

The purpose of this letter is to map out for you and your child what the start of the new academic year will look like. This letter has been written specifically for your child's year group and all details within it are specific to them. Each year group will have their own dedicated floor/zone, where they will be based for their lessons, with their own toilet facilities and dedicated entrance and exit points. All students will be studying the full curriculum from September with only minor changes to certain practical activities.

YOUR CHILD'S FORM GROUP, ROOM AND TIMINGS WILL BE SENT TO YOU (VIA A TEXT MESSAGE), LATER IN THE WEEK.

Attendance

It is vital for all children to return to school to minimise, as far as possible, the longer-term impact of the pandemic on children's education, wider development and well-being. Shielding advice for all students will pause on 1st August, subject to a continued decline in the rates of community transmission. From September we will be operating our usual attendance policy. This can also be found on the school website. If you have any concerns regarding this, please contact the academy prior to the summer break so that staff can provide support to ensure a return to full attendance for your child. We have been advised that the Local Authority will follow normal procedures with immediate effect, which will include penalty notices and court proceedings for non-attendance.

Purchasing Food

Students will not be able to purchase food before the start of the day or at break time. Please send in a suitable snacks for your child if required. At lunchtime only one year group will be in the canteen at any one time. A hot meal option will NOT be available. We will be continuing to review the initial plan and as soon as is safe we would hope to return to making a hot service available. If you would like your child to purchase food at lunchtime, please use School Gateway to add funds to your child's account. Students who are eligible for free school meals will still be able to choose from the cold options available.

Uniform

Full school uniform must always be worn with no exceptions. There is no need for further arrangements other than normal personal hygiene routines following a day in a school. Uniforms do not need to be cleaned any more often or differently than usual. When your child has PE they will need to wear their full PE kit to school for that day as we will be unable to mix year group 'bubbles' in the changing rooms. Your child will be given their subject timetable on their return to the academy detailing which day they have PE.

Behaviour for Learning

Our behaviour policy is based on three key principles: Being **READY**, showing **RESPECT** and being **RESPONSIBLE**.

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Never were these principles more important, or likely to be tested than in the next few months. Whilst we are sympathetic towards the challenges that our students may have faced in the last few months, the academy will continue to pursue high standards of behaviour from all. Initially we have made the decision not to set detentions, therefore if issues need to be brought to your attention, we will contact you to discuss them in the expectation that they can quickly be resolved. The requirement to set detentions will be under continual review and will be re-introduced, in a way that maintains the integrity of year group bubbles, if teachers and leaders deem this the most effective way of sanctioning failure to comply with the behaviour policy.

If you wish to speak to a member of staff in the academy, please pre-book an appointment by contacting reception by phone. On-site appointments will only be made for issues that cannot be resolved by any other method of communication. Regrettably, we will have to turn away visitors who do not have an appointment.

It is also essential that all students appreciate the new expectations that fall upon all of us when managing coronavirus. Most importantly, in staying in their 'bubble', not moving around the academy and being respectful of all hygiene regulations.

Finally, I know that many of you will be anxious about your child's return and we hope we can offer you reassurance that, as always, the safety and wellbeing of our students and staff is at the heart of every decision we make. We have really missed the students and are all looking forward to their return to the academy.

In a previous letter (available on the website), Mr Turnbull wrote about the detailed planning that the academy has undertaken to ensure the safe return of all in the school community.

May I also make you aware of the general Government guidelines to prevent an outbreak of COVID-19 in a school setting:

- All children keep a two metre distance from all staff, including their teacher
- Children maintain good hygiene and wash their hands regularly
- Children adopt good respiratory hygiene: catch it, bin it, kill it
- Children do not attend school if someone in the household has a confirmed case of COVID 19 or is showing symptoms

Please be assured that in addition to the measures stated above we have:

- A dedicated health and safety risk assessment for COVID-19
- Enhanced cleaning including cleaning frequently touched surfaces
- A quarantine area for those displaying symptoms of COVID-19
- Plans to fully engage with the NHS Test and Trace process. (Please ensure your contact details are up to date. If your child shows symptoms, we MUST always be able to contact you).

Thank you in advance for your continued support. We will maintain contact with you over the coming months with the expectation that our plans will evolve. In the meantime, please have a safe summer break, I look forward to working in partnership with you again in September.

Yours sincerely,



M Riley
Senior Vice Principal

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