

ST/KJP
14th July 2021

Dear Parents/Carers

I hope you are well.

This year has been a challenging one for us all as we have had to deal with the challenges and consequences of living through a pandemic, alongside having education disrupted. Despite this, the academy has continued to make a difference for our students, our values and culture being defined by our three core drivers of **Outcomes, Values** and **Choices** which are at the heart of our daily actions and interactions. Our aim is simple; by rigorously instilling our **values**, students achieve positive **outcomes** enabling them to make considered life **choices** which open doors to the opportunities they deserve.

On-Site Testing

On Monday 6th July, the Government released revised guidance which states that secondary school students should receive two on-site lateral flow tests on their return in September. Students should then continue to test twice weekly at home until the end of September when this will be reviewed. We had hoped that the use of lateral flow tests at home, where parents/students chose to do so, would be sufficient. For those parents/carers that have already consented, test kits will be distributed before the end of term for use over the summer holidays.

To run testing in school is a huge undertaking, potentially requiring over 3000 test slots with associated administration and processing. The guidance allows for a staggered return to school to facilitate this and therefore we have reviewed our plans for the first week back in school.

Week A	
Tuesday 31 st August	All students who have consented will be invited into school for Test One (further details and timings to follow) Students will only be at school for the test.
Wednesday 1 st September	All staff return - INSET – no students in school
Thursday 2 nd September	Welcome back Years 7, 11, 12 and 13 Test Two for those students who have consented in Years 7, 11, 12 and 13 Students in school all day and will all leave at 3pm Years 8, 9 and 10 not in school
Friday 3 rd September	Welcome back Years 8, 9, 10, Year 7 also in school Test Two for those students who have consented in Years 8, 9 and 10 Students in school all day Years 11, 12 and 13 not in school
Monday 6 th September	All students return to school

Further details regarding testing will be sent in a separate letter.

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School Day 2021-2022

The last 18 months has led to many adjustments in school, notably the changes we have made to the school day to accommodate year group bubbles. We have reflected on the changes and decided how the new academic year will look:

- All students will enter and exit the academy through the pedestrian gate
- Students can enter the academy site from 8:15am (gates open) - students who enter at this time will go to the front playground
- Students can enter the academy building from 8:30am (doors open)
- Form time for all year groups is 8:40am – 9:00am
- The school day is continuous with separate year groups having break and lunch in period 2 and 4 respectively. Single year groups at social times has been successful and the queues are also shorter for students at lunchtime
- Students in Years 7 to 10 and 12/13 leave at 3pm or can attend registered enrichment activities
- From Monday, 6th September, Year 11 students will go to period 6 Monday to Thursday (3:00pm – 3:50pm) according to a fortnightly subject intervention timetable and leave at 2.50pm on a Friday

As the academic year has nearly finished, please can I remind you of some of the basic expectations ready for September.

Uniform

We have a strict, but simple uniform policy here at the academy. We do not permit trainers, short skirts or tight trousers to be worn. We are a formal place of work; therefore, the expectation is that students have:

- Black skirts of an appropriate length
- Black trousers (appropriate style)
- Blazers with the academy badge
- Academy ties for boys and girls
- Formal black shoes (no trainers/sports makes)
- Students should not wear coats or hoodies in the building and must store outside garments in their locker or school bag.

PE Kit

On days that students are timetabled to have PE, they may come to school in their PE kit. We have made this change in consultation with the students as it is their preference. We take pride in the positive relationships we have with our students and always listen to their feedback. Having done that, they must now take responsibility for wearing the correct uniform during PE days. Can I please ask for your support in ensuring that your child wears the correct PE kit; a Sheffield PE tracksuit top, Sheffield PE polo shirt, plain black shorts/tracksuit bottoms or leggings, plain black PE socks and trainers. PE kit can be purchased from our suppliers at www.lissport.co.uk/shelfield

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Ormiston Sheffield Community Academy

Equipment

Students need a bag to carry books and essential stationery (to include at least a black or blue pen, green pen, pencil and ruler) with them every day. We encourage all students to leave all expensive personal items at home as we cannot take responsibility for these. We are an academy in the business of learning and teaching and all losses are at the owner's risk. Little (if any) time will be spent on the recovery of items. As you can appreciate, this would detract from the importance of our core purpose of learning.

Mobile Phones

At present the rules are that students can bring mobile phones with them to school and that they must not be seen or heard in a classroom as this detracts from learning. In addition, when students move from lesson to lesson they should not be using phones. The designated zone for students to use phones is in the canteen area of the school at break or lunch time. If your child uses their phone at an inappropriate time or location, it will be confiscated. These rules were determined by our student leaders and we expect all students to follow them as it additionally demonstrates our commitment to working collaboratively with our students. We make clear to students our determination to keep lines of communication open and often report what *"you said and we did."* We are, however, under increased pressure from both central and local government to 'ban phones' so it is important that students show they are responsible enough to manage this appropriately.

Visitors to School

Can I also please remind parents/carers that they are not allowed into the school building without a pre-arranged appointment.

SIMS Parent/ Student App

We would like to thank all those parents who have registered and already downloaded the SIMS Parent App. Moving forward this will be our main method of communication between school and home, therefore if you have not already registered please check for an email from no-reply@sims.co.uk and follow the simple steps to register and download the app. If you have not received the email, or need to update your email address, then please contact the school reception or email parentapp@scacademy.co.uk

As always, thank you for your continued support.

Yours sincerely



Mr Stuart Turnbull
Principal

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