

September 2021
ST/KJP

Dear Parents/Carers

I hope you are all well and that your child is settling into the new term. It's great to have everyone back at the academy and we are very much looking forward to the year ahead.

In light of the new term starting, I thought it would be helpful to get in touch to clarify our current policies around coronavirus procedures and protocol. As always, these are in line with Government guidelines and we will continue to keep a close eye on advice and adapt where necessary. As you may already be aware, guidance has changed since last academic year and **students will no longer need to isolate if they live in the same household as someone with COVID-19 or are a close contact of someone with COVID-19** (provided they don't have COVID-19 symptoms). Instead your child will be contacted by NHS Test and Trace and informed they have been in close contact with a positive case and advised to take a PCR test. We would encourage any student who is advised to take a PCR test to do so.

In order to minimise the spread of the virus, students are encouraged to continue lateral flow testing twice weekly at home. This advice is due to be reviewed at the end of September so we will get in touch if it changes. Anyone who receives a positive lateral flow test result should self-isolate and book a PCR test. If that is taken within two days of the lateral flow test and comes back negative, it overrides the lateral flow and your child can return to the academy, provided they don't have COVID-19 symptoms. If your child tests positive on the PCR, they must self-isolate for ten days as usual.

I also want to take this opportunity to reassure you that we are continuing to put in place safety precautions to limit the spread of the virus as much as possible. The health, safety and wellbeing of our staff, students and wider community remain our number one priority and we will continue to follow guidance to ensure this. A reminder of our logistical arrangements is below:

- 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
- Students in Years 7 to 10 and 12/13 leave at 3pm or can attend registered enrichment activities
- Year 11 students 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

We would like to thank all those parents who have registered and downloaded the SIMS Parent App. This is our main method of communication between school and home. Therefore, if you have not already registered please check for an email from no-reply@simms.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

In assemblies with all of our students we have reiterated our expectations around them attending school every day and on time, in full uniform, wearing Sheffield PE kit on PE days, as well as using their mobile phone responsibly. 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 their phone. 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. 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. We would value your support with reinforcing these expectations with your child.

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A reminder that all students will finish at 2pm on Thursday 23rd September to allow staff to prepare for our Open Evening. We are excited to be welcoming parents of Year 6 pupils back into the academy for this event. Places for the evening can be booked via our website.

I hope all of this information is helpful and clarifies any queries you might have. However, if you do have any further questions please do not hesitate to get in touch.

Thank you for your ongoing support.

Yours sincerely



Mr Stuart Turnbull
Principal

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