16th July 2020

Dear Parents/Carers

I am sharing with you the provisional plans for our September reopening for all students. As you will be aware, the government guidance is changing and being revised on a regular basis. Hopefully you understand that everything is potentially subject to change.

The guidance for schools requires that students will remain in year group bubbles in September, with reduced social distancing controls for students within those bubbles, but not across other year group bubbles. Staff need to continue with strict social distancing, using the 2m rule or the 1m+ rule as appropriate.

To support the use of year bubbles we plan to introduce a number of control measures for next academic year. These include:

* Each year group will have a zone of the building for their learning.
  + Y11 - East Wing First Floor
  + Y10 - West Wing First Floor Section A
  + Y9 - West Wing First Floor Section B
  + Y8 - West Wing Ground Floor Section A
  + Y7 - West Wing Ground Floor Section B
* East Wing Ground Floor contains our more specialist subject rooms (Catering, Art, Music, Technology and Computing) and will be left fallow. It will only be used by a controlled number of students from one year group each day for specialist subject teaching and learning.This will enable us to continue to deliver a broad and balanced curriculum.
* Students will spend the vast majority of their time in one classroom with the same class of students. Students will study all the subjects that they would normally study but they will be in the same class for all their lessons. Specialist teachers for each subject will come to them to teach. These classes have been carefully decided, based on the following rationale
  + Y11 and Y10 - Science and Maths sets due to Maths exam entries for Higher and Foundation tier and for triple science and additional science entries
  + Y8 and Y9 - English based sets to help support students literacy development
  + Y7 groups based on the tutor group allocations developed through transition from Y6 to Y7
* Arrival and departure of students at the academy at the start and end of the day will need to be staggered and students and families need to be well planned to ensure students do not arrive too early or late. Students should arrive no earlier than 10mins before their start time and will need to wait outside their designated entrance until they are given access to their zone.
  + Y11, Y10 and Y7 - Arrival 8.20 to 8.30 for 8.30 start
  + Y9 and Y8 - Arrival 8.50 to 9.00 for a 9.00 start
* Break time and lunch time will be split so that each year group will have it’s own break and lunchtime. Break will be 15 mins and lunch will be 20 mins.

In September we will have our usual staggered start to the year. This is even more important as we need to let our new Year 7 students settle into the building as they have had limited time in the building during transition from Year 6. All staff and students will need an induction into the new operational procedures in the academy, as well as giving us time to respond to any changes in the government guidance.

The following students will return on the following days

**Thursday 3rd September 8.30 - Year 11 and Year 7**

**Friday 4th September 8.30 - Year 10**

8.30 - Year 11 and Year 7

**Monday 7th September 9.00 - Year 8**

8.30 - Year 11 and Year 7

8.30 - Year 10

**Tuesday 8th September 9.00 - Year 9**

9.00 - Year 8

8.30 - Year 11 and Year 7

8.30 - Year 10

We still have work to do over the summer, planning for a different approach to learning in the academy and getting the building ready for 750 students with control measures, zones and bubbles in place.

September will be an exciting fresh start in so many ways. It will be brilliant to see all our students back with us at the academy. Hopefully the national and local picture in September will still enable this to happen. All we ask of our students is that they take full advantage of the opportunity to learn in the building face to face with staff in September and that they make every effort to be at their very best in terms of their attitude, behaviour, cooperation and willingness to learn. The academy will be sending updated and more detailed information out to all parents in mid August.

Thank you again for your support and understanding over recent months.I wish you a safe and happy summer.

Yours sincerely



Mike Adnitt

Principal