

8 July 2020

Dear parent/carers

Full Academy reopening in September 2020

I hope you and your family are well. Following on from the letter from our CEO, Debbie Clinton, I am writing to confirm that we are currently developing our plans to fully reopen the Academy, to all students, in September 2020. I appreciate your patience as we respond to the government's guidance which was released to both schools and the general public on Thursday 2 July 2020. The guidance can be found at the following link:

<https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/actions-for-schools-during-the-coronavirus-outbreak/guidance-for-full-opening-schools>

I can assure you that our plans and associated risk assessments will be comprehensive and robust, minimising risk to students and staff as far as possible. I will share these with you as soon as I can and certainly before the summer holiday.

The Academy staff and I are looking forward to the students' return and are busy developing re-engagement activities to support the transition back to the Academy. This re-engagement programme will identify and address gaps in learning as well as provide high quality well-being support where required.

Mrs Ferris wrote to you a few weeks ago asking you not to buy new Academy uniform until the government's plans for September were clear. To help you plan for the new term I can now confirm that the full Academy uniform and presentation policy will be in place when students return. We expect students to wear their uniform with pride. Students in Year 7- Year 11 must wear:

- An Academy blazer with the new badge. You can purchase a badge from our supplier, which can be sewn on, if your child currently has an old style blazer.
- A white, collared shirt.
- Gold and black tie. Please do not buy a new tie from our suppliers. We will provide all incoming Year 7 students with a new tie, free of charge, during the transition process. Further, we will replace any other Academy tie with a new gold and black tie on the first day of term – again this will be free of charge.
- Plain black tailored trousers (no jeans, chinos, tight, stretchy, or legging styles) or a plain black tailored skirt, knee length or just above the knee. The style should be pleated or fall away from the body (again no tight or stretchy styles).
- Black or dark coloured socks or black tights.
- A black V-neck jumper to be worn under the blazer (optional).
- Sensible, flat soled, black shoes (no high heels, boots, trainers or canvas shoes). A rucksack large enough to carry books, equipment, and PE kit.

For PE

- Dukeries polo shirt or plain white T-shirt, black shorts, white socks, trainers. An optional rugby shirt is also available.

Students in Sixth Form must adhere to our business wear dress code. Details can be found in the student handbook which is available on the Academy website. Hard copies can be requested from the Academy reception.

The Academy also has exceptionally high standards in terms of student presentation. I would like to remind you of the following:

- Hairstyles should be appropriate, with no more than one hair colour and no bright or unnatural colours.
- A small amount of subtle make up is allowed.
- One small stud earring in each ear is allowed.
- A wristwatch is allowed but no other jewellery, piercing or fashion accessories are allowed.
- Nail extensions and nail varnish are not allowed.

We also expect our students to be well-equipped for learning every day. To support students in meeting our expectations we will provide the following items, free of charge, when we return to the Academy in September:

- A pencil case
- Two pens
- Two pencils
- A ruler
- An eraser
- A pencil sharpener

Students may bring their own equipment and stationery, but the list above is the minimum equipment that we require students to bring with them every day. The Academy will also run a Stationery Shop at the start of the day to allow students to replenish equipment as required. We would also encourage students, in every year group, to have their own scientific calculator. The recommended calculator can be purchased from our Maths Faculty or from our Stationery Shop for around £6.00.

We are currently consulting with all stakeholders on changes to our Academy Vision, Purpose and Values. Thank you to everyone who has already contributed. The consultation remains open until 5pm on Friday 10 July 2020. I would encourage you and your child to fully contribute to the future development of our Academy. Please click on the following link to complete the online questionnaire:

<https://forms.office.com/Pages/ResponsePage.aspx?id=eBpyvmw9NUqUimgWHu2ZKnIIV9pxDK5Kohuopm9oRIRUQ1hQR0dOTkZROEFOTko2SEhNNEo1SVBCWC4u>

Thank you for your ongoing support. Please do not hesitate in contacting the Academy if you wish to discuss any aspect of this letter.

Kind regards



Mr Ged Rae
Principal