

10 June 2020

Dear parent/carers

### **Partial re-opening for Year 10 and Year 12**

I would like to take this opportunity to thank you for your patience, understanding and cooperation since we had to close to the majority of students, due to the current COVID-19 pandemic. I know that this period has been challenging for many families, in particular, when you have had to juggle work commitments with managing childcare, if you have children with special educational needs or disability, or if you are a single parent or carer.

Following on from the government's decision to open schools more widely, I am now writing to confirm that we will be welcoming Year 10 and 12 children back in small groups (bubbles) of no more than 15 students, from Monday 15 June 2020. We are not permitted to have more than 25% of the total number of students in these year groups on site at any one time and will therefore be operating on a rota basis.

In order to best protect your child and our staff we have put a number of temporary measures in place. I have summarised the most important information you need in order to decide whether your child should attend the Academy:

#### **Keeping your child safe**

The ATT Estates Team have been working tirelessly with myself, senior leaders and the Academy Site Team to ensure all possible protective measures are in place.

Our aim is to reduce as much interaction as possible through containing students and staff in 'bubbles'. Measures such as two metre distancing in classrooms, one-way systems around the Academy, additional daytime cleaning and a focus on hand and respiratory hygiene routines will be in place from 15 June 2020. Lunch and break times will also look and feel very different as we attempt to keep children from mixing with any more people than necessary.

All of these additional measures are laid out in detail in a comprehensive suite of risk assessments. You are welcome to view these on our website [www.dukeries.attrust.org.uk/](http://www.dukeries.attrust.org.uk/).

We have also added some temporary procedures to our standard policies, including safeguarding and behaviour. I have included an additional Home Academy Agreement for you and your child to agree to so that we can all truly work together to keep your child safe. Once you have read and understood the Home Academy Agreement please complete by adding your digital signatures to this form on this link  
<https://forms.office.com/Pages/ResponsePage.aspx?id=eBpyvmw9NUqUimgWHu2ZKu1XVc--lQNOuo8eNVJze1dUMEkxV0gwVTNHQUJQWIZDTEhWVUxVSzc1VC4u>

### **Attendance expectations**

If a member of your household is displaying symptoms related to COVID-19 please do not send your child to school:

- Cough
- shortness of breath or difficulty breathing
- fever
- muscle pain
- sore throat
- new loss of taste or smell

You can access testing through the NHS website. If anyone in your household is positively tested for COVID-19, your child should not return to the Academy for 14 days.

Children who are classed as clinically extremely vulnerable (please check the following link for an up to date list) should not return to the Academy:

<https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/guidance-on-shielding-and-protecting-extremely-vulnerable-persons-from-covid-19/guidance-on-shielding-and-protecting-extremely-vulnerable-persons-from-covid-19>

If someone else in your household is classed as extremely vulnerable, then you should only let your child return to school if you believe your child can stringently adhere to social/physical distancing measures and follow all instructions.

If your child is clinically vulnerable but not on the above list, please seek medical advice before making your decision whether they should attend.

Whilst our desire is to welcome all Year 10 and 12 students back, we completely understand that you will be anxious about whether your child will be safe in the current circumstances and I wanted to be clear that you will not be held to account in the normal manner, should you choose not to send your child to the Academy during this unprecedented time. We may, however, make calls home to check on the safety of children who can be in the Academy and are not. I can assure you that the government has confirmed that no action (including fines) will be taken for non-attendance.

If your child is in Year 10 they will be asked to attend the Academy on one day per week. This will be on either Monday, Wednesday, Thursday or Friday. We will send you a separate text and email with details of the specific day your child should attend.

If your child is in Year 12 they will be asked to attend the Academy based on their subject choices. This may result in Year 12 students attending on more than one day per week. Again, we will send you a separate text and email with details specific to your child.

Provision for the children of key workers and vulnerable students will continue.

It is very unlikely that the Academy will be opening to any other students for the remainder of this academic year and we will continue to provide Home Learning resources until we can invite them back.

We regret to confirm that brothers and sisters of Year 10 and 12 children will not be able to attend the Academy unless they fall into either of the other two categories for attendance.

It is important to note that, if we do not have enough staff to safely supervise all of the children attending, (this may be because of increased demand for key worker places or staff sickness), we

may have to retract the offer for some students to attend the academy on certain days and revert to Home Learning. We will obviously give you as much notice as possible if this situation arises.

### **Uniform expectations**

We do not expect children to wear Academy uniform during the remainder of this academic year but ask that your child has clean clothes every day and sensible footwear.

### **Transport**

When travelling to and from the Academy students should follow the government guidance, 'Coronavirus (COVID-19): safer travel guidance for passengers'.

<https://www.gov.uk/guidance/coronavirus-covid-19-safer-travel-guidance-for-passengers>.

This guidance emphasises that students should only use public transport where it is necessary. If public transport is used then students should observe social distancing, minimise surface contact, and wear a face covering.

We are awaiting final details regarding buses provided by the local authority to transport your child to the Academy. The local authority have confirmed transport will be available although there may be some changes to pick-up and drop off points. They have also confirmed measures in line with government guidance will be in place on all services. I will provide further details by Friday 12 June 2020.

Where possible, students should travel to the Academy on foot or by bicycle – again observing social distancing.

Students who travel by car should only car share with members of their own household. Members of different households should not share a vehicle. If you are bringing your child by car, please be considerate to our Academy neighbours and park in a safe manner. Be aware that there is no parking in the main Academy car park and the drop off zone is behind the Sixth Form Centre. Staff will be on hand to direct you.

### **Dropping your child off and picking up**

To best protect against social gathering at the start and end of the Academy day, we have staggered start and end times slightly. Please aim to arrive at the Academy as close to the allocated time as possible and maintain a social distance from other family groups. We recommend you discuss this with your child before they attend.

For Year 10 students there are two start times: 8.30am and 8.40am. The day will end at 2.55pm and 3.05pm respectively. Year 12 students will start at 8.40am and their day will end at 3.00pm. There are two entry points to the Academy: via the front entrance or the rear entrance. Students may arrive at either entry point. Staff will be on hand to direct your child to the appropriate lining up point.

During the day we may check your child's temperature including on entry to the Academy. Should the reading indicate that they have a high temperature, your child will be required to return home.

### **Arrangements for lunch provision**

Our caterers are providing meals for anyone who is attending site. If your child is entitled to free school meals then this will be provided at no cost. In other cases, please ensure your child's online payment system has adequate funds. Cash will not be accepted.

We have assessed the risk of sending your child into the Academy with a packed lunch. Any food or drink or utensils brought to the Academy should not be shared. Students should bring a plastic bag with them and take any rubbish or unfinished items home with them for disposal.

Different bubbles will have staggered lunches which do not overlap. During lunchtime social distancing and hand hygiene routines will be in place.

### **Equipment provisions**

To minimise the sharing of equipment within the Academy environment, we have identified some resources that will not be in use during this extraordinary time. Our curriculum has been adapted to take account of this. Your child will be provided with a resource and stationery pack for their own use. It will be left on their desk at the end of the day. Your child should not bring any stationery or equipment to the Academy. Further, PE kit will not be required. Whilst we will be explaining why they shouldn't share their equipment with classmates, it would be helpful if you can reinforce this message at home. Students may bring a drinks bottle to the Academy although bottled water will be available. This bottle should be taken home each day and should be cleaned using anti-bacterial wipes, washing up liquid or detergents as appropriate.

### **Parental visits**

To ensure we minimise the number of individuals entering the Academy site, we ask that parents do not attend for ad-hoc meetings. If you need to speak to anyone please call 01623 860545 or email [office@dukeries.atrust.org.uk](mailto:office@dukeries.atrust.org.uk) and a relevant member of staff will be in touch. You should also use these contact details should you have any questions around wider opening.

Yours sincerely



Mr Ged Rae  
**Principal**