



1st September 2020

Dear Parent/Carer,

Returning to the academy

It is now just a matter of days until all children return to the academy. All of our teachers and support staff have already returned; they are busy planning lessons and preparing to welcome back the students.

My last letter to you, dated 14th August 2020, outlined the precautions that the academy is taking to ensure a safe return, as well as some of the practical arrangements for the start of term. I thought it would be useful for me to reiterate some of the key points.

Staggered start to term

To ensure that we can fully re-induct all students back into our ethos, expectations and routines, we are staggering the dates on which students return. On their first day back, students will spend the day with their tutor, re-acclimatising to academy life and preparing them for learning in the months ahead. Students will return on the following dates:

| Date | Students in school |
|---|--|
| Friday 4 th September | Year 7 only |
| Monday 7 th September | Year 7, Year 9 and Year 11 only |
| Tuesday 8 th September | Year 8, Year 10 and the Sixth Form only (NB. Year 7, Year 9 and Year 11 will <u>NOT</u> be in school on this day) |
| Wednesday 9 th September onwards | All students |

Staggered timings of the day

In line with guidance from the Department for Education, the academy will be temporarily adjusting the timings of the day to stagger the arrival and dismissal of students. Students should arrive at school at the following times:

| Year Groups | Arrival at school |
|------------------------------------|--|
| Year 7, Year 8, and Year 11 | Arrive from 08:00 onwards, to be lined up in the playground by 08:25 for a prompt 08:30 start. |
| Year 9, Year 10 and the Sixth Form | Arrive from 08:30 onwards, to be lined up in the playground by 08:55 for a prompt 09:00 start. |

Initially, Year 7, Year 8 and Year 11 will be dismissed at 15:00, whilst Year 9, Year 10 and the Sixth Form will be dismissed at 15:30. The Extended Day will not run for the first few weeks of term. More information about the timings of the day can be found on the academy's website.

Travelling to and from school

We encourage as many students as possible to walk to school. Not only is this good for one's health, it also frees up space on public transport for other people who need it. Bicycle racks are available for students who choose to cycle in. These students must also bring a bicycle lock. If students have no choice other than to use public transport, we recommend that they allow plenty of time for their journey, as buses and trains are likely to be very busy, some may not stop and some may be severely delayed. Face coverings must be worn on public transport.

New website

The academy's new website is now live and can be found at www.pimlico.futureacademies.org. It contains all the information that you need to know about the academy, including key announcements, academy policies and details of the September start.

New policies

The academy has launched a new Behaviour Policy and a revised Uniform and Equipment Policy. Copies of both policies are available to download from the academy's website, and I encourage you to review these before the start of term.

ParentPay

The only method of paying for canteen food is online through ParentPay. Students are no longer able to 'top up' their accounts at school. To avoid unnecessary inconvenience or embarrassment, please ensure that you regularly monitor your child's ParentPay account and add additional funds in good time. Please find enclosed a letter that details your username and password. If you have any queries after receiving these, please contact Lisa Thompson at l.thompson@pimlicoacademy.org.

Precautions to ensure a safe return

The academy is committed to ensuring the safe return of all students and is fully compliant with guidance released by the Department for Education. To put your mind at ease, please find below the details of some of the measures that we will be taking to ensure a 'Covid secure' environment.

- Staff and students will receive a comprehensive induction about procedures and expectations. The start of term is being staggered in order to facilitate this.
- Students will be placed into year group 'bubbles' and will have no more than transitory, passing contact with students from other year groups. Each year group will be taught in designated year group zones for the majority of lessons.
- The arrival and dismissal of students will be staggered. Upon arrival at school, students will line up in the playground in their tutor groups and be escorted into the building by their teachers.
- Breaktime and lunchtime will be staggered. Each year group will have an allocated zone in the playground. There will be no canteen service at break time. At lunchtime, students will be rotated through the canteen in their year groups and will be directed where to sit by a member of staff.
- Students will have regular opportunities throughout the day to wash and/or sanitise their hands. Hand sanitiser will be available throughout the building.
- An enhanced cleaning schedule will be in place to ensure that canteen tables, toilets, classrooms and subject specialist equipment are cleaned between use by different year groups.
- Students and staff are not required to wear face coverings in school. However, students and staff may wear face masks in corridors and communal areas, if it they wish to. If worn, face masks must be worn properly, covering both the mouth and nose. Face masks must be removed by students and teachers in classrooms, as they have negative effects on communication and thus education. Face coverings are required at all times on public transport. Upon arrival at the academy, students will be able to remove their face mask, dispose of it in a bin and sanitise their hands. This guidance will be kept under review and will be updated in line with any government policy announcements.

Attendance at school

The Department for Education has made clear that all students must return to school in September: *'It is vital that children and young people return to school and college, for their educational progress, for their wellbeing, and for their wider development. School attendance will be mandatory from the beginning of the new academic year. This means that it is your legal duty as a parent to send your child to school regularly.'* (Department for Education, August 2020)

However, **pupils, staff and other adults must not come into the school if they have coronavirus symptoms, or have tested positive in at least the last 10 days.** Coronavirus symptoms include:

- a new and persistent cough
- a high temperature,
- a loss of, or change in, the normal sense of taste or smell

Anyone that develops these symptoms during the school day will be sent home and will be advised to self-isolate for at least 10 days and to arrange a test to see if they have coronavirus. All other members of the academy community can continue to attend school as normal, unless they have come into 'close contact' with a confirmed case (i.e. somebody who has tested positive), or unless they develop symptoms themselves.

Finally,

I am incredibly excited about seeing all students return to the academy in the coming days. Things may feel a little different at first, after such an extended period of school closure. However, I have every confidence that our students will 'step up to the mark' and that, together, we will be able to offer all the support that they need to succeed.

Yours faithfully,



Daniel Smith
Principal