

Thursday, 15th April 2021

Dear Parents and Carers,

The summer term

Following Lord Nash's recent letter, I am writing to outline arrangements for the term ahead.

I would like to begin by reiterating that our priority remains the provision of a safe, disciplined and scholarly environment in which your children can study, learn and flourish. We are passionately committed to serving our diverse and inclusive community, in which our students feel respected and are safe. Early this term, our student council representatives will be meeting to discuss, amongst other things, our cultural calendar for the year ahead and what they would identify as our school development priorities. They will also have the opportunity to contribute to the full review of our PSHE curriculum, which we are conducting in preparation for the next academic year. Later this term, all students will have the opportunity to participate in the first of our inter-house competitions, as well as getting involved in our Sports Week and our Summer Festival. As soon as Covid restrictions allow, I look forward to welcoming small groups of parents back into the academy to join me for regular coffee mornings.

Staggered return

We will be starting the summer term with an INSET session for all staff on the morning of Monday 19th April. To support optional onsite Covid testing upon students' return, year groups will return in a staggered fashion as follows:

Return Date	Year Group	Arrival time
Monday 19 th April	Year 7 and 11	Arrive from 10:30 for a prompt 11:00 start
Tuesday 20 th April	Year 8	Arrive from 08:00 for a prompt 08:30 start
	Year 9 and 10	Arrive from 11:20 for a prompt 11:50 start
Wednesday 21 st April	Year 13	Arrive from 08:00 for a prompt 08:30 start
Thursday 22 nd April	Year 12	Arrive from 08:00 for a prompt 08:30 start

Sixth Form students will attend online lessons via MS Teams from Period 3 on Monday 19th April until they return to the academy.

Covid testing

We will continue to offer voluntary twice-weekly onsite Covid testing to all students for the first four weeks of term. The arrangements for this will continue as before Easter, with those students for whom we have received parental consent being collected from class by a member of the pastoral team.

Student conduct

I know that our students want to learn in a safe, disciplined and scholarly environment, and I know that this is what you want for your child. As Lord Nash made clear in his recent letter, any repeat of the actions on the final day of term would jeopardise students' education. I need to be very clear that, if any students take part in a repeat of such actions, they will undoubtedly face disciplinary consequences. I ask for your support in explaining this to your child in advance of their return, so as to ensure a positive and orderly start to the new term.

Co-curriculum

We are excited to announce that the co-curriculum will be resuming from Wednesday 21st April. Students were given the opportunity to select their co-curricular activities before the holidays. All students will be issued with updated timetables on their first day back. On days when students have a co-curricular activity on their timetable, they will finish at 16:00.

Key dates for the summer term

Please be advised of the following key dates for the summer term.

- Year 10 Parents' Evening (remote): Thursday 22nd April
- Year 9 Options Meetings (remote): Thursday 29th April
- *Half term:* Monday 31st May – Friday 4th June
- Year 6 Interviews and Assessments: Saturday 12th June
- Year 7 Parents' Evening (remote): Thursday 24th June
- Year 12 UCAS Evening: Thursday 1st July
- Year 6 Taster Day: Wednesday 7th July
- Year 8 Parents' Evening (remote): Thursday 8th July
- Summer Festival: Thursday 15th July

More information about each of these events will be circulated nearer the time.

Year 11 and Year 13 Internal Exams

Students in Year 11 and Year 13 will be sitting their internal exams between Monday 3rd May and Friday 14th May. Students were issued with their exam timetables and the key topics to be covered in each exam before Easter. Students are required to continue attending school as normal every day until the date of their final exam. Students will not be required to attend school every day thereafter. However, small groups of students will be invited into the academy to complete non-exam assessments, to sit community language exams and to meet with their tutors to discuss their plans for next year.

For Year 11 students who are joining the sixth form in September 2021, a preparatory course will run after half term. More details will be circulated nearer the time.

Sixth Form entrance and exit

Sixth form students are no longer required to use the student gate and line up on the astroturf in the morning. Rather, they should resume entering and leaving the building via reception.

Yours faithfully,

Mr. D Smith

Principal