

Message from the Headteacher

Many congratulations from all of us here at the Academy to our Year 11 students, who will have finished their final exams by the time this bulletin is published. They have all worked extremely hard under the most unusual and incredibly difficult circumstances, putting in extra effort wherever possible and willingly extending their learning and revision time. We are so proud of them and they deserve every success in their future endeavours. Well done to them all – we are very proud!

You will already have received a letter about the alteration of the timings of the school day from Monday 7th June. This is one of a number of significant steps we are gradually taking on the road back towards normality. All normal timetabled lessons will now finish at 3pm, which should allow for some extra-curricular activities at the end of the day. Please be reassured that the bubble entrances and exits will still be kept separate to keep everyone safe whilst restrictions remain in place. The new timings will help to foster a sense of school community for everyone, and especially for the younger students in year 7, who have not yet experienced the 'whole school' environment during their time with us.

INFORMATION FOR PARENTS & CARERS

Everyone has a role to play in keeping our schools safe and helping to stop the spread of COVID-19.

YOU SHOULD BOOK A COVID-19 TEST IF YOUR CHILD HAS:

A HIGH TEMPERATURE

This means they feel hot to touch on their chest or back (you do not need to measure their temperature).

OR

A NEW CONTINUOUS COUGH

This means coughing a lot for more than an hour, or 3 or more coughing episodes in 24 hours (if they usually have a cough, it may be worse than usual).

OR

A LOSS OR CHANGE TO THEIR SENSE OF SMELL OR TASTE

This means they've noticed they cannot smell or taste anything, or things smell or taste different to normal.

DON'T SEND YOUR CHILD TO SCHOOL IF THEY HAVE COVID-19 SYMPTOMS.
VISIT [NIDIRECT.GOV.UK/ CORONAVIRUS](https://nidirect.gov.uk/coronavirus) TO BOOK A TEST ONLINE. CALL 119 IF YOU CANNOT BOOK A TEST ONLINE.

IF YOUR CHILD DOES NOT HAVE SYMPTOMS OF COVID-19 BUT HAS OTHER COLD-LIKE SYMPTOMS, SUCH AS A RUNNY NOSE, THEY DO NOT NEED TO BE TESTED AND THEY OR MEMBERS OF YOUR HOUSEHOLD DO NOT NEED TO SELF-ISOLATE. YOUR CHILD CAN ATTEND SCHOOL IF FIT TO DO SO.

HERE'S WHAT TO DO IF:

YOUR CHILD HAS COVID-19 SYMPTOMS

WHAT TO DO?

- DO NOT SEND YOUR CHILD TO SCHOOL
- Book a COVID-19 test
- Household self-isolates
- Inform school immediately about test result

WHEN CAN MY CHILD RETURN?

Your child can return to school if the test is negative providing they are well enough, have not had a fever for 48 hours and if they haven't been advised to self-isolate by the PHA Contact Tracing Service.

YOUR CHILD TESTS POSITIVE FOR COVID-19

WHAT TO DO?

- DO NOT SEND YOUR CHILD TO SCHOOL
- Inform school immediately about test result
- Self-isolate for at least 10 days as advised by the PHA.

WHEN CAN MY CHILD RETURN?

Your child can return to school after 10 days even if they still have a cough / loss of smell or taste. These symptoms can last for several weeks.

SOMEBODY IN MY HOUSEHOLD HAS COVID-19 SYMPTOMS

WHAT TO DO?

- DO NOT SEND YOUR CHILD TO SCHOOL
- The household member should book a COVID-19 test
- Household self-isolates
- Inform school immediately about test result

WHEN CAN MY CHILD RETURN?

Your child can return to school if the symptomatic household member's test is negative and if they haven't been advised to self-isolate by the PHA Contact Tracing Service.

SOMEBODY IN MY HOUSEHOLD TESTS POSITIVE FOR COVID-19

WHAT TO DO?

- DO NOT SEND YOUR CHILD TO SCHOOL
- Inform school immediately about test result

WHEN CAN MY CHILD RETURN?

Your child can return to school when they have completed 14 days of self-isolation without any symptoms*.

CONTACT TRACING HAS IDENTIFIED MY CHILD AS A CLOSE CONTACT

WHAT TO DO?

- DO NOT SEND YOUR CHILD TO SCHOOL
- Self-isolate for at least 14 days as advised by the PHA Contact Tracing Service

WHEN CAN MY CHILD RETURN?

Your child can return to school when they have completed 14 days of self-isolation without any symptoms*.

YOUR CHILD HAS BEEN IN CONTACT WITH SOMEONE WHO HAS BEEN IDENTIFIED AS A CLOSE CONTACT

WHAT TO DO?

- Attend school as normal
- If your child does not have any COVID-19 symptoms they should carry on with normal activities.

WHEN CAN MY CHILD RETURN?

Your child can return to school when they have completed 14 days of self-isolation without any symptoms*.

YOUR CHILD HAS TRAVELLED ABROAD AND HAS TO SELF-ISOLATE

WHAT TO DO?

- DO NOT SEND YOUR CHILD TO SCHOOL
- Self-isolate for 14 days in line with quarantine advice

WHEN CAN MY CHILD RETURN?

Your child can return to school when they have completed 14 days of self-isolation without any symptoms*.

*If your child has been identified as a close contact of a case of COVID-19, or has returned from travel abroad and is self-isolating, they must self-isolate for 14 days regardless of a negative COVID-19 test result.

Further information, including Frequently Asked Questions for Parents and Carers, can be found on the Department of Education's website at www.education-ni.gov.uk

EDUCATION RESTART

WE ALL MUST DO IT TO GET THROUGH IT



Lateral Flow Testing

A reminder to all parents/carers to continue to carry out and log the Lateral Flow Testing for your students during the half term.

COVID-19

Face coverings

In line with the government roadmap face coverings will no longer be compulsory in classrooms in the academy as of 17th May. However students and staff will still be required to wear a face mask when moving around the academy site and along school corridors between lessons.

Exit at the end of the day

Can you please reiterate to your child that on leaving the school site, they must go straight home and practice social distancing in line with Government advice.

Mobile phones

If your child has their mobile phone confiscated they will be allowed to collect it from Reception at the end of the day. This is to allow students to use the NHS Track and Trace app if needed.

Visitors to site

Government guidance regarding visitors to site has not changed. **Parents must not arrive to site without a pre-arranged appointment** authorised by a senior member staff. Any parents who do so **will be asked to leave the academy site** in line with CV-19 restrictions and the academy risk assessment.

Year 7

Form of the fortnight: 7L - for their amazing work in lesson and for leading by example with routines that are set in place - keep up the amazing work!!

Star of the fortnight: Savannah T-T - for her community spirit and responsible actions. Well done Savannah - fabulous work!!

Year 8

Form of the fortnight: 9A – for their amazing interaction during PSHE.

Stars of the fortnight: Thalia B in 8B – for persevering with school work and trying her absolute best. Tylar L-A in 9A – for an amazing contribution to form time during PSHE.

Year 9

Form of the fortnight: 9K – well done for being the most improved form for effort and attitude in lessons.

Stars of the fortnight: Shannon T, Iqra M, Leearna A, Dominic F and Kodie S - who have all worked really hard over the last 2 weeks.

Year 10

Form of the fortnight: 10O - for having the best attendance.

Stars of the fortnight: Ishan B and Antonio D for their politeness and positive energy.

Year 11

There are no specific nominations this fortnight, we are just sending lots of love and good wishes to all of Year 11 as they come to the end of their time here at the Academy. See you all on June 25th!!

ACE Centre

Star of the fortnight: Brian W – for his consistent improvement and good attitude.

Facilities Management

Free School Meals

If you are in receipt of any benefits at all, then your child/children may be eligible for Free School Meals. For every child that is eligible for Free School Meals, the Academy receives funding to provide meals and additional funding, called Pupil Premium, for us to spend on resources for children. So children benefit even if they are registered but don't use the Free School Meal service. If you think you may be eligible, and haven't already done so, please register an application here <https://www.cloudforedu.org.uk/ofsm/link2ict>

Behaviour

In our final half term, we are introducing some of our new routines in preparation for our September start. All students and parents have been informed of these changes, and the expectation is that students display conduct that reflects our high standards. Well done and thank you to students, who since our return on 8th March, have engaged with our face to face learning and conducted themselves in an exemplary manner. As we continue to drive our standards forwards, we expect students to be using STEPS when communicating with staff and their peers, showing mutual respect at all times.

An important reminder that for safety reasons, the following school rules are in place:

- If your child cycles to school, the wearing of a bike helmet is a MANDATORY requirement. We will confiscate bikes from students who are seen riding without a helmet in order to keep them safe.
- Bikes must not be ridden on school site and students must dismount and walk to the bike shed.
- Electric scooters are banned from site with no exceptions.

PSHE

Thoughts for the weeks ahead:

W/C 07 06 2021: "The way to achieve your own success is to be willing to help somebody else get it first." *Iyanla, Inspirational Speaker.*

W/C 14 06 2021: "Today knowledge has power. It controls access to opportunity and advancement." *Peter F Drucker, Educator.*

Assemblies:

W/C 07 06 2021: Volunteers week – the importance of community.

W/C 14 06 2021: Healthy eating week.

Quality of Education

We are absolutely delighted that in the final half term of this academic year, students will begin to once again make use of our 'practical' spaces in school. We very much look forward to the use of our specialist classrooms for Science experiments, for Technology and Art lessons, and for sessions of Drama and Music. Please enjoy a restful half term break, because we will need all of our students to be raring to go and ready to make the most of every learning experience in this exciting final half term.

Future Dates for your Diary

School re-opens after Half Term – Monday 7th June 2021.

School breaks up for Summer – Thursday 22nd July 2021.

Attendance Matters

Importance of Punctuality

It is crucial that your child is punctual to school every day. This is the key to success in life and of course ensures that your child will arrive to class on time and so will not miss any part of the lesson.

What happens if my child is regularly late to school?

If your child is late to school, they will need to arrive at main school reception and will be 'signed in' by one of our Education Welfare Officers, who will then escort your child to their lesson. The EWO's will discuss with your child their reasons for being late. As a consequence of being late without a valid reason, your child will be expected to attend a one hour detention after school in the assigned year bubble behaviour room. Any student who fails to attend their detention will receive further sanctions, which will include one day in internal isolation. If your child is persistently late to school, you will be invited to attend a meeting with the EWO's or your child's Pastoral Leader to discuss this further and see what support can be offered. If your child arrives to school after the registers have officially closed, not only will they receive a detention, their attendance mark will be an unauthorised absence, which ultimately could lead to a fixed penalty notice or prosecution. Therefore, please support your child to ensure they arrive to school on time.

Many thanks for your continued support.

Safeguarding:

There has been much in the media recently about 'County Lines' and Child exploitation. Unfortunately, all children are vulnerable to this kind of exploitation, particularly as they move through their teenage years and become more dependent on peers for guidance and less dependent on family. There are many good websites with advice for parents about what they can do to protect their children. Here are a couple of useful websites:

<https://www.childrenssociety.org.uk/what-we-do/our-work/child-criminal-exploitation-and-county-lines>

<https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/coronavirus-covid-19-keeping-children-safe-from-abuse-and-harm/advice-to-parents-and-carers-on-keeping-children-safe-from-abuse-and-harm#criminal-exploitation-and-county-lines-serious-violence-and-gangs>