



11th June 2020

Dear Parents/Carers

This week we have posted out letters indicating the day that your child is planned to be in school, if you have not received this by Thursday evening. Please call the school office on Friday so that you can prepare your child for their return to school. We know that there are going to be some very anxious, and excited students who are experiencing a mixture of emotions. Support staff within the Academy have been involved in ongoing training and we are ready to support students who have found this period of lockdown overwhelming and challenging.

As we edge closer to some semblance of normality and the phased return of Year 10 students into the Academy from next week, I wanted to take a moment to thank you for your feedback within the recent parental consultation that we sent out and also to address some of the feedback that we received from you so that you have utter clarity into our thinking, planning and rationale.

Why is my child only in school for three hours a week?

We are working alongside the guidelines that have been published by the DFE and independent Health and Safety advisors. They stipulate we must only have 25% of the year group population in at any given time and must fully deep clean the site between different bubbles of students coming in. The Government have published guidance that states that learning will predominantly be online or remote based learning. It is our aim that the face to face contact will give students the guidance that they need to confidently approach the online learning that will continue to be set by teachers.

How are you planning to maintain social distancing whilst the students are moving to and from the Academy?

Senior Leaders will be on the gates at the start and end of every session. They will be directing the students to their designated entrance and escort them off site at the end 12.00pm. We do need your support in speaking to the children about how important it is for them to maintain social distancing between your front door and ours.

We expect the children to adhere to social distancing measures at all times. If they are not, we will be left with no option but to revoke their place within the provision as we cannot accept the risk to the health and safety of the Academy population.

Will the car park be open for us to drop children off?

There are no plans to open up access to the staff car park. It is vitally important that it is only used by people with pre-existing arrangements as a result of mobility constraints as we need to operate a closed site for the sake of health and safety and safeguarding.

What happens if my child arrives late?

As we have planned for a staggered start time to the day, late arrivals may risk contaminating other bubbles of learners. Therefore if your child is late, they will be turned away by the leadership team and you will be contacted and informed that they are on their way home.

Why are the students not wearing uniform?

Current guidelines dictate that clothes that have been worn outside of the home environment need to be washed on an individual's return home. We felt it was an appropriate and supportive measure to prevent parents from having to wash a full school uniform after every visit to the Academy site.

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We do however, still have high expectations for standards which is why we have stipulated that clothing should be appropriate and non-offensive and should not distract from the learning of others. This means that students should not be wearing heavily branded or logoed items, football/team tops or clothing that is revealing.

Rules that apply to jewellery and make-up still stand. Students can only wear light mascara and a watch. It is vital that time in school is solely focussed on learning and that we can make the most of the time that we do have on site and not in conflict over well-established rules.

What does my child need to bring with them?

Students should only bring into school items they need for that day. They should have their English, maths, science and EBACC option exercise book, a pen and pencil and their calculator.

We have some spare equipment should students need it and some spare calculators for a short term loan. Please be aware that staff cannot take equipment or papers in from students and penalties will be awarded for any missing equipment.

Will my child be able to buy food or drinks on site?

Students will remain in their bubble at all times whilst on site. Therefore they can bring in a small snack or drink that they will be permitted to have at an appropriate time by a member of staff. There is no capacity for the children to buy food or drink whilst on site.

Can my child bring their phone into school?

We remain a phone free site. However we are unable to offer the facility of students handing phones in at reception owing to social distancing measures and recognise that many of you will want to be able to communicate with your child when they leave the Academy. Therefore students with mobile phones must have them turned off and out of sight.

Any student found using a mobile phone on site or during learning will be immediately reported to the Senior Leadership team as it is a very serious breach of safeguarding regulations and Academy rules.

What if my child is ill and not able to come into the Academy for their session?

You will need to contact the Office and let us know the reason for the absence as First Day Calling procedures will continue to be followed.

If your child is ill, we want you to keep them at home, but they will not be able to access a different session that week as all bubbles must remain contained.

Can my child come to school on their bike?

Yes, they will be directed by the leadership team as to where they need to store it.

We continue to find ourselves in uncharted waters and I urge you to contact the Academy, via your child's tutor or College Leader, if you have any further questions.

We wholeheartedly look forward to welcoming Year 10 back.

Yours sincerely

Gina Di Vito
College Leader Vesalius