

Ref DJB/AQG/Letters/September 2020 (2)

11 September 2020

Dear Parent/Carer

Having completed our first full week back at school I wanted to write to update you on how our students have managed their return to school. Staff have been delighted to welcome students back and have thoroughly enjoyed being back in the classroom with our young people. Students have been working hard and have settled back into their learning quickly. They are getting used to the new processes and protocols quickly and have made a really positive start.

I wanted to take this opportunity to remind you that Fairfax is following government guidance and will continue to review processes and procedures as we work through the term and also remind you of the measures we are taking to reduce risk within our community, and remind you how you can support us in ensuring these measures are as effective as possible:

Staggered Start Times

The Academy has put in place three start and three end times, through allocated gates. This reduces the mixing of students outside of their year groups and minimizes the number of students arriving at the gates at one time. Please support us by planning your child's journey (particularly if they walk to school) so that they arrive at their allocated time. If your child is in Year 7, please remind them to come through the gates by 8:30am.

KS3 Lesson Bubbles

Students in KS3 are remaining in their bubble for lessons, break and lunch. They are escorted to and from break and lunch venues by teachers and also get taken to purchase their lunch in their bubble. Each bubble has a 'home room' that their lessons take place in, and also have an assigned social zone on the playground. Please support us by reminding your child that they must not try to enter another bubble, as this increases risk for others, and should remain with their class at all times.

KS4 Lessons

Year 10 and 11 students have most of their lessons in bubbles, in order to minimize the need for movement around school and minimize mixing. At break and lunch time they are in a year group bubble, but are able to remain with students they are in class with. Students are lined up after social time and escorted back into the building by their teacher to ensure mixing in corridors is minimized. Students are encouraged to socially distance at all times. Please support us by reminding your child that it is important to socially distance when socializing face-to-face, even with people that they are in class with.

KS5 Lessons

Sixth form students are arriving on site for their first lesson and leaving after their final lesson, to minimize their time on site. The majority of lessons are in a block assigned for sixth form use only, and

the Sixth Form Centre has its own catering to avoid students needing to go into the main school block. Students have been doing a great job of signing in and out. Please support us by reminding your child to queue socially distanced to sign in and out of G block and also remind them that it is important to socially distance when socializing face-to-face, even with people that they are in class with.

Good Respiratory and Hand Hygiene

Students have access to sanitizer on entry to each lesson and are asked to sanitize or wash hands before eating at lunch time. Students receive a daily briefing that reminds them of the importance of good respiratory and hand hygiene and posters are displayed around the school to remind students of good hand washing routines and 'catch it, bin it, kill it'. If you wish your child to use their own sanitizer, please provide a small bottle that fits in their blazer pocket. Please support us by reminding your child of the importance of good hand and respiratory hygiene and send them with a clean tissue in their pocket.

Whilst things are undoubtedly different this term, the atmosphere in the school is a positive one and we are looking forward to seeing students begin receiving rewards in line with our core values, ambition, respect, kindness and safety.

Yours sincerely



MRS D J BUNN
Head of Academy