

4th January 2021

Dear Parent / Carer

RE: ACADEMY RE-OPENING JANUARY 2021

I hope that you and your family had a restful break, notwithstanding the COVID 19 restrictions that we are all living with.

As you know, we have worked incredibly hard since the start of the pandemic in March to keep our Academy as safe as possible, and that work has continued over the Christmas holiday period. I would like to thank our staff for their commitment and professionalism, which has seen many working over the holidays.

You will be aware that the Government have recently announced that there will be a change to the staggered return to the Academy in January 2021 and I am writing to confirm the arrangements.

Information relating to Academy re-opening in January 2021

The Government has now announced that secondary schools and colleges will re-open on a phased basis, as follows:

- If your child is classed as vulnerable or if you or your partner is a key worker, then your child could return to school on Tuesday 5th January. They will receive face-to-face teaching in school when they return. Parents of students in Y8-13 that had a place during the first lockdown will receive a separate communication from the school. If your circumstances have changed and you believe you are entitled to a key worker place, please email post@fairfax.fmat.co.uk. A separate email will be sent to Y7 parents.
- If your child is taking exams this academic year (which includes all those in Year 11 and Year 13), then your child will return to school on Monday 11th January. Your child is expected to engage fully with their remote learning starting on 5th January so that they keep up with their education
- If your child is in Years 7, 8, 9, 10 or 12, then your child will return to school on Monday 18th January. Students that have BTEC examinations before 18th January, should attend school in uniform to sit these exams. They will return home immediately after the examination.

As before, a great deal of planning and risk assessment has gone into ensuring that our Academy continues to be as safe as possible for pupils and staff, in line with latest Government and Public Health England guidance.

Week commencing Tuesday 5th January

Monday 4th January remains a training day for all staff and the Academy is closed to all students. Students in years 7 - 13 will receive lessons remotely **from** Tuesday 5th to Friday 8th January 2021. These lessons will be delivered in line with our remote learning statement (available on the Academy website) and will include live lessons on Teams. Staff will note the type of learning for each lesson on Show my Homework by 8.30am in the morning and we ask for your support in ensuring that your child is equipped for the day. Full engagement with the work is expected and will be monitored by staff. If there are any difficulties accessing work, please contact the academy ASAP on post@fairfax.fmat.co.uk

Week commencing Monday 11th January

The Academy is open to students in year 11 and 13 only. Full attendance is expected for year 11 students and as previously communicated Year 13 students will be on study leave and only need to attend for scheduled mock examinations. Students in Years 7, 8, 9, 10 and 12 will again receive lessons remotely from Monday 11th – Friday 15th January.

Week commencing Monday 18th January

The Academy is open from Monday 18th January to all students in years 7 – 13 and full attendance is expected.

All dates are in line with government guidance, and may change if any further announcements are made by the government.

Examinations during the period of remote learning

Year 13 mock examinations that were due to take place between 6th and 8th January, will be rescheduled. For mock examinations week commencing 11th January, our intention is that these will take place, dependent on any further government announcements.

External BTEC examinations will continue as scheduled.

Key worker parents

If you are a key worker parent of a student in year 7, please complete the google form, sent in a separate email, by 3pm this afternoon.

If you are a key worker parent of a student in Y8-13, you will receive a separate communication today, please complete and return by 3pm today.

If you are a key worker parent of a student in Y8-13, who didn't attend during the summer lockdown, please email post@fairfax.fmat.co.uk, and a link will be sent for an online form.

Vulnerable children

The Academy will contact any student categorised as vulnerable on Monday 4th January to discuss attending the Academy when closed to their year group.

Support with accessing lessons remotely or via Teams

Support sheets for accessing lessons on Teams can be found on the Academy website in the Academy Life section, under remote learning.

Free school meals

If your son/daughter is entitled to a free school meal, a weekly parcel will be provided. You will receive an email to confirm whether you would like the parcel. They will be available to collect from reception for all year groups Tuesday 5th January, and for years 7, 8, 9, 10 and 12 on Monday 11th January. Provision will be available in school for those students that are attending the Academy as usual.

Covid 19 testing programme

There will be no testing during the week beginning Tuesday 5th January.

The Academy is planning to begin the implementation of a Covid 19 testing programme in line with Government guidance from Monday 11th January at the earliest. Further information will follow later this week. No students will be tested without parental consent, and further information will follow as the Government release materials.

We will continue to take decisions in the best interests of our students, working with you and keeping you informed every step of the way, while following Government rules and advice.

Yours sincerely



MRS D J BUNN
Head of Academy