

Ref DJB/AQG/Letters/6 Parent Carer June 2021

24 June 2021

Dear Parent/Carer

As the number of Covid cases in Birmingham increases, I am writing to remind you of the Covid measures we have in place. Please take the time to read through this letter with your child and remind them of the expectations. We really want to keep our students in school and by following the measures in place, we can reduce the risk of the virus spreading in the Academy, and the number of bubbles required to isolate.

Students start and end times of the day remain staggered as follows:

Year 7	Year 8	Year 9	Year 10	Year 12
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Gate 3 • Start time: 08:30 • Break time: 09:55-10:15* • Access to The Refectory 09:55 • Lunch time: 12:15-12:50 • Access to The Refectory 12:15 • Finish time: 14:40 • Separate Boys' PE and Girls' PE Groups • Students move to specialist classrooms for Art, Drama, Music and DT 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Gate 1 • Start time: 08:30 • Break time: 09:55-10:15* • Access to The Refectory 10:05 • Lunch time: 12:15-12:50 • Access to The Refectory 12:25 • Finish time: 14:40 • Separate Boys' PE and Girls' PE Groups 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Gate 3 • Start time: 08:40 • Break time: 10:55-11:15* • Access to The Refectory 11:05 • Lunch time: 13:15-13:50 • Access to The Refectory 13:25 • Finish time: 14:50 • Same day detentions move to Refocus 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Gate 1 • Start time: 08:40 and Tutor Time re-introduced • Break time: 10:55-11:15 • Access to The Refectory 10:55 • Lunch time: 13:15-13:50 • Access to The Refectory 13:15 • Finish time: 14:50 • Work detentions resume 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Gate 2 • Start time: 08:40 and Tutor Time re-introduced • Break time: 10:55-11:15 • Lunch time: 13:15-13:50 • Finish time: 14:50 • Access to The Refectory is staggered during P1-P4 • Same day detentions resume • Work detentions resume

*Year 7, 8 and 9 students that participate in football coaching must collect their lunch at break time.

Please plan your child's journey to arrive at their form room for their start time. Students should avoid congregating before and after school, particularly with students that are not within their bubble.

Year 7, 8 and 9 remain in class bubbles for their lessons and a year group bubble at break and lunch time.

Year 10 remain in a class bubble for most of their lessons and move to their options subjects. They are in a year group bubble at break and lunchtime.

Year 12 are in a year group bubble and move to their options lessons.

All year groups are based in a specific zone in the school to minimize mixing between year groups at change over times. Every lesson has a seating plan (including Year 12 supervised study) in order to facilitate contact tracing and minimize contacts. Students should remain in these seating plans at all times.

At break and lunch times students are asked to sanitize their hands on entry to The Refectory and The Refectory is cleaned between each year group's use. Students lunch time is outside in an allocated year group zone; a reminder that students should bring a coat and umbrella. Students are reminded to socially distance in social time.

Students are asked to sanitize their hands on entry to class. If students prefer to bring their own hand sanitizer, this should be small enough to fit inside their blazer pocket. Students that are exempt from the use of sanitizer must wash their hands regularly in soap and water; please advise us if your child is unable to use sanitizer so that an exemption card can be issued.

All adults in the Academy (unless exempt) continue to wear face coverings in corridors and communal areas, but in line with the government guidance, they are not required in classrooms.

Students are encouraged to carry a clean tissue in their blazer, so that if they cough or sneeze, they can 'catch it, bin it and kill it'.

The named symptoms for Covid remain:

- **a high temperature** – this means you feel hot to touch on your chest or back (you do not need to measure your temperature)
- **a new, continuous cough** – this means coughing a lot for more than an hour, or 3 or more coughing episodes in 24 hours (if you usually have a cough, it may be worse than usual)
- **a loss or change to your sense of smell or taste** – this means you have noticed you cannot smell or taste anything, or things smell or taste different to normal

if your child displays any of these symptoms, it is essential that your household isolates and a PCR test is booked. Anyone with symptoms will be eligible for testing and this can be arranged via <https://www.nhs.uk/ask-for-a-coronavirus-test> or by calling 119. By isolating immediately, we can minimize the number of bubbles that are sent home to isolate.

If your child receives a positive PCR test please email: attendance@fairfax.fmat.co.uk.

If the result is during the weekend please email:

ContactTrace@fairfax.fmat.co.uk

Lateral flow testing is an essential tool for minimizing the spread of Covid in the school. If you consented to lateral flow testing, please make sure this is completed two times each week. It is important that results of the tests are reported online straight away, even if your child's result is negative or void. This can be done at www.gov.uk/report-covid19-result. Results can also be reported via telephone by calling 119 (free from mobiles and landlines). Lines are open every day, 7am to 11pm.

You should also share your child's test result with the school via this link:

<https://forms.office.com/Pages/ResponsePage.aspx?id=HnypklpiskmKnVw6Pae-8Gu393UTepOv-LLJKAeFjxUMUfFM05SWFdTMTdGUUpPUVNER1pTjEwTi4u>


Lateral flow tests should only be used when asymptomatic (showing no Covid symptoms). Should your child display any Covid symptoms, please book a PCR test as soon as possible and isolate until test results are received.

If any students receive positive Covid test results, Fairfax will follow Public Health England Advice in contact tracing close contacts, and we will advise parents/carers of the requirement to isolate.

I appreciate that all of this information has been shared previously, but given the Academy has been notified of three positive cases in June, it seemed appropriate to issue a reminder of procedures and expectations. If students adhere to guidance, we can minimize the spread of the virus and reduce the number of students required to isolate. Your support in reminding your child of the importance of these measures is appreciated.

Thank you for your ongoing support of the Academy and its staff throughout these unusual times.

Yours sincerely



MRS D J BUNN
Head of Academy