

Dear Parents and Carers

As you will be aware, tomorrow sees the start of significant national restrictions as we continue to respond as a country to the Covid-19 pandemic. Schools will remain open during this period of time and there will be no significant changes to the operations that we have put in place since our reopenings in both June and September.

I would, however, like to take this opportunity to reiterate that it remains important that you support us in ensuring that these measures are successful. In particular, I would like to emphasise that you and your child should only arrive at your designated pick up and drop off times.

This will make it easier for everyone to ensure greater social distancing (2 metre rule) by:

- minimising the number of people on each gate at any one time;
- ensuring that the rule of 6 is adhered to and;
- preventing the mixing of households.

Children must not be stood waiting around before their start time nor should they be stood waiting to be collected at the end of the day.

Please also remember that if you need to speak to a member of staff, you should do this by telephone in the first instance. The academy is currently only accepting essential visitors where appointments are made in advance.

At the end of the half term, the government released an update to the school opening guidance. As a result of this we have updated the academy risk assessment.

A key change to the government requirements is that we **must** ensure that all rooms are well ventilated by opening windows and doors where possible. We have implemented this throughout the academy. We are ensuring that our ventilation system is set to allow sufficient ventilation and then, where classrooms have them, external doors are opened fully during breaktime to create a flow of air. The school will of course continue to have the school heating system turned on throughout the school day.

Some children may feel the cold more than others. If parents want, children may wish to wear a vest or a thermal undergarment. This is not a requirement, just a suggestion. We will also allow children to wear fleeces / coats over their jumpers if they experience being cold.

Many parents have asked about making it compulsory to wear masks when dropping off and picking up children. We are not in a position to enforce this, it is currently a choice by individuals if they wish to wear a mask outdoors. We do fully support those adults who wish to wear a mask and encourage more to do this.

Once again, I would like to take this opportunity to thank you for your continued support during these difficult and unprecedented times.

Yours faithfully,

Matthew Vickers

Principal

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