

Dear parent/carer

Re. reminders regarding students' return to the Academy and an update on the use of face coverings

We are very much looking forward to welcoming all of our students back to the Academy this week and I would like to take the opportunity to remind you of arrangements for students' return on Thursday and Friday. Students should return to the Academy on either Thursday or Friday this week as follows:

Thursday 3rd September:

Year Group	Arrival Time	Departure Time
Year 7	8:30am	2:50pm
Year 8	9:45am	2:55pm
Year 9	11:00am	3:05pm

Friday 4th September

Year Group	Arrival Time	Departure Time
Year 7	8:30am	2:50pm
Year 8	8:30am	2:55pm
Year 9	8:40am	3:05pm
Year 10	10:00am	3:10pm
Year 11	11:15am	3:00pm

As each year group arrives, they will be asked to assemble on the Head Yard where staff will direct them to their allocated year group areas. We would ask that students do not arrive on site before their allocated time.

From Monday 7th September the beginning and end of the day will be staggered each day as set out below, in order to ease the flow of students moving through the gates at the same time and to facilitate social distancing. . In order to facilitate the movement of buses and to ensure the safety of students at the beginning and end of the Academy day, we would ask that parents/carers who are collecting students do not drive on to the Academy site.

Start times for year groups will be as follows (Again, we would ask that students do not arrive on the Academy site until their designated start time):

	Arrival Time	Departure Time
Year 7	8:30am	2:50pm
Year 8	8:30am	2:55pm
Year 9	8:40am	3:05pm
Year 10	8:50am	3:10pm
Year 11	8:40am	3:00pm

Updates regarding bus provision can be accessed via the South Yorkshire Passenger Transport Executive (SYPTe) website: [www. https://www.sypte.co.uk/](https://www.sypte.co.uk/)

As I indicated in my letter prior to the summer break, the fully updated Academy risk assessment, to ensure effective infection protection and control measures are in place to support students, staff and parents/carers is available to view via the Academy website. You may be aware, however, that

government guidance in relation to the wearing of face coverings/masks within schools was revised on 26th August. Guidance now states:

“Schools and colleges will have the discretion to require face coverings in indoor communal areas where social distancing cannot be safely managed, if they believe that it is right in their particular circumstances.” (DfE)

As such, all students at Aston Academy will be required to wear a mask or face covering in all indoor communal areas other than classrooms. Face coverings will also be required on buses to and from the Academy. Students will be provided with three re-usable face masks on their return to the academy. Students may also wear their own face coverings, as long as they are plain.

A reminder also that in order to minimise the sharing of equipment between students within learning groups and bubbles, students should come to the Academy fully equipped with their own stationery, including pens, pencils, a rubber, sharpener, ruler and calculator. We also recommend that students bring enough water for the day in a re-usable drinks bottle.

With regard to lunch provision, a ‘takeaway’ service of hot and cold food options will be available to all students, which they will collect and consume within their allocated year group indoor or outdoor area. In order to facilitate a contactless system, we are asking that all payments for school meals be made via Schoolcomms and the School Gateway App. This will mean that cash and cheques do not need to be brought into school and payments can be automatically linked to students.

Please note, if your child is displaying any of the following three symptoms, they should not attend the Academy:

- High temperature – this means you feel hot to touch on your chest or back (you do not need to measure your temperature)
- 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)
- 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

Please do not hesitate to contact the Academy should you have any questions or concerns.

Yours faithfully,

Mr D Curran
Principal