



11 September 2020

Covid-19 – September full reopening - Review of the first week

Dear Parent/Carer

Prior to students returning on 2 September 2020 we conducted a comprehensive risk assessment. This document was shared with parents on 21 August 2020. Having now had the students back in the building for a week, we have been able to test the system, review our plans and update the risk assessment regularly. The latest version of our plan and risk assessment can be found on our website. A PowerPoint presentation is also available on our website which gives a visual overview of our key strategies.

We have had a very positive first week and received lots of positive feedback from all stakeholders. During this week we have reflected and refined some key aspects of the risk assessment to ensure the health and safety of all our students and staff. Below is an overview of our key strategies as well as an outline of the things we have refined.

Hand sanitiser and wipes

A 500ml bottle of hand sanitiser is on every desk in every class room. Upon entering the classroom all students sanitise their hands. Students then sanitise their hands again at the end of the lesson. A pack of wipes is also available on every desk for students to wipe down if needed.

Multiple site entry points

The separate entrances for different year groups has worked well and enabled students to calmly move to their morning locations on entry to the site.

Break and lunch time locations

Each year group has a separate location (both inside and outside) in which they can be served hot and cold food. This system has worked well and has enabled us to keep year groups separate in a morning and at break and lunch times.

One way system

The one way system has worked extremely well, it has prevented students from crossing in the corridor and ensured a smooth flow of students travelling to lessons.

Staggered lesson start and end times

The staggered start and end to lessons ensure that the corridors are much quieter and calmer during transition times. This is coordinated by members of the senior leadership team who communicate when year group bubbles can transition to and from lesson when the corridor is clear.

Lanyards

Each year group has their own coloured lanyard. This has allowed us to effectively manage corridor movement, ensuring students are only on the corridor when they should be.

100 minutes lessons

The feedback we are having from staff is that this has been a huge success. The additional time in the lesson has allowed students to engage deeper into subject material and has allowed more content to be covered.

Student conduct

We are delighted with the way our students have picked up the new ways of working on their return to school. Their conduct has been impeccable.

Below are the three areas which we have refined so far:

Social Time

All year groups have their own designated social area, within this area students are able to purchase food and eat in their indoor area. We have added an additional serving counter in the Y7 area and refined the queueing system in the Y9 area.

Seating in social spaces

We have purchased additional seating for the Year 8 and 6th form area. This will help ensure that all students have space to sit over their social times.

Toilets

Initially when planning the social area venues we assigned toilets for each year group. Since operating the system we found that Y10 required more toilets. We have therefore opened additional toilets next to the Y10 location.

Covid-19 case

This week, the Academy has been notified that one pupil (in year 13) has tested positive for Covid-19. In line with our planned response the Academy has sought advice from Public Health England and implemented all necessary measures which includes self-isolation for the affected pupil and those directly affected.

In the interests of confidentiality I am unable to identify the pupil concerned, however I can reassure you that all pupils directly affected by this have been contacted and all families have been given the appropriate advice as agreed with Public Health England.

Our risk assessments and plans to mitigate risks are included within our Risk Assessment which, as stated above, is available on the Academy website.

I hope this communication appeases any concerns that understandably as parents you may have. We are committed to the health and safety of our students and staff and will continue to review and refine our risk assessment.

We will continue to communicate effectively and efficiently with parents when cases arise.

Yours Sincerely

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Liam Ransome', with a long horizontal flourish extending to the right.

Liam Ransome
Principal