

CSB/LFA

15<sup>th</sup> July, 2020

Dear Parents/Carers

### **Welcoming Back All Our Students in September**

As we come towards the end of the academic year I wanted to thank all parents, students and staff for how the school community has worked together over the past few months. It has probably been the greatest challenge that any of us have faced as teachers and I am very proud of how we have all responded to the situation. I am particularly pleased that we have managed to provide a strong online curriculum for students and I would like to thank parents for all the encouragement they have given them during the lockdown to continue with their learning.

The very good news is that school will be returning in full from the beginning of September. This means that every year group will be able to attend, every day. This is vital for children's education and wellbeing and is something that we know will be welcomed across the school community.

Following the publication of the Department for Education's (DFE) guidance for reopening schools, we are now finalising our risk assessment so that we can reopen for everyone in line with the government's and scientists' advice. Key to this will be ensuring that everyone in school follows excellent hygiene practices and that we are careful about the number of different people that students come into contact with at school.

This will mean a number of important changes to how the school runs next term. In particular:

- When students are in school they will remain within their year group bubble. We will be avoiding any non-essential mixing of year groups;
- Each year group will enter the building through a different door and go straight to the zone of school where they will do all of their classroom-based lessons. Exit from the building will be the same as the entrance door.
- Students will remain in their year group bubbles for break and lunch times. Students will be told where their indoor space is for eating, and where they can access outside space. Each bubble will be separate from the others for break and lunch time to avoid non-essential mixing of year groups.
- Each year group bubble will have an area of school where they will be taught. However, we want to offer a full curriculum, so practical lessons will continue in Art, DT, Music, Science, Drama and IT. This is because students need to be taught in specialist teaching spaces.
- All areas of the school will receive more frequent cleaning and there will be hand sanitiser available throughout the school. We will continue to encourage students to wash their hands regularly and promote the 'catch it, bin it, kill it' approach for any sneezes or coughs. It is particularly important that students sanitise their hands before using any specialist equipment or keyboards, and do the same afterwards.

- Sport and Physical Education will predominantly take place out of doors and contact sports will not be played.
- Students should bring their own items of equipment to school (eg pens, pencils etc) as sharing of items will not be allowed.
- Extra-curricular clubs and activities will operate but within year groups wherever possible.
- Breakfast and After-School Clubs will operate but students will be expected to sit within their year group.

By making these changes, we will be able to follow the scientific guidance to ensure students are safe within the school. Students will be able to travel to and from school as normal but we would request that, wherever possible, they travel with students in their year group bubble and practice social distancing. If they are travelling on public transport, they will be required to wear a mask. Face coverings are not required in school and students will need to remove any masks as they enter the building.

We know that all students will require some degree of catch-up after the disruption of the past few months. It is therefore essential that every student attends every day from the beginning of term so that we can quickly return to normal curriculum content.

Attendance will be required at school and will be monitored as it has been in the past. Unauthorised absence will be treated as such and followed up accordingly.

Over the summer we will be finalising the timetable for each year group and it is our expectation that a full curriculum will be offered to all students subject to the following temporary changes:

PSHE – lessons will start formally from January 2021

SRE (Sex and Relationships Education) – will start from summer 2021

We know that students thrive best when they have routine, consistency and stability around them. We will therefore be doing everything we can to ensure that, wherever possible, school life is as close to what they are used to as possible. Thus, all the Academy's existing policies and expectations on issues such as behaviour, uniform, and courtesy will be in place as normal with updates as required to reflect adherence to safety and hygiene measures.

The government's scientists have also set out what will happen if any student or member of staff displays symptoms of COVID-19. Firstly, it is essential that everyone – students, parents and staff – continues to follow the NHS guidance and that they do not come into school if they are experiencing any symptoms. Thus, we would ask every parent to keep any child displaying symptoms of COVID-19 at home and immediately inform the school. Likewise, if any member of your household tests positive for COVID-19, please keep your child at home and inform us as soon as possible.

If a student becomes unwell at school with a high fever, new continuous cough or has a loss of, or change in, their normal sense of taste or smell (anosmia), they will be sent home. We will arrange for them to be looked after safely, separately from others, until they can be collected. They will be expected to self-isolate for at least 7 days and arrange to have a COVID-19 test.

Should we experience a confirmed case of COVID-19 within our school community, we will work closely with our local health protection team to ensure the situation is managed quickly and effectively. Using NHS Test and Trace data, they will advise us on what next steps – if any – we will need to take as a school. We will be putting in place stringent control measures as per the DfE's guidance in order to minimise the need for larger groups of children to self-isolate should there be a positive case within school.

In the event of any large number of students having to self-isolate or in the event of a local lockdown that means we are required to close the school, we will immediately revert to the online learning that has been working well this term. We very much hope that we do not need to return to any form of lockdown but, if we do, we are confident that we will be able to continue with all students' learning from home. Once again, the support of parents in ensuring children access these resources will be vital.

Finally, we know that some students will feel apprehensive about returning to school after such a long time away. This is completely understandable and is something that we expect will be more widespread than one might think. We will therefore be taking particular steps to ensure that our pastoral support for each student allows for this and provides time and space for any worries or concerns to be addressed so that each student is able to enjoy being back at school.

Thank you for your patience and understanding over the past few months. Everyone at Central is looking forward to welcoming our students back. We know that there is a great deal to do and that the year ahead may still be subject to some interruptions. But we are entirely focused on making sure that in every lesson, every day, every student continues to learn and thrive.

Yours faithfully

A handwritten signature in purple ink, appearing to read 'C Bacon', written in a cursive style.

**Miss C Bacon**  
**Principal**