

12 August 2021

Dear Parent/Carer

Firstly, can I once again thank you for your continued support and understanding as we collectively handle the challenges posed by COVID-19. As detailed in my last communication, I am writing to you to confirm the arrangements for the Academy's opening in September 2021.

We are looking forward to having all students back in the Academy and I wanted to assure you that, as has been the case throughout the coronavirus crisis, we will ensure the Academy is as safe as it possibly can be. Your child's health and the health of all our students and staff, continues to be the most important factor for us.

There are a number of specific points about the full return to the Academy that I wanted to set out in this letter, which I hope are helpful.

Phased Return/Testing:

For their initial return to the Academy, all students will arrive at the main **Sports Centre** entrance in order to be tested. It is extremely important that your child attends at the correct time and remains socially distanced whilst waiting. Once the cohort's results are through, there will then be a 'Health and Safety' talk including the new Academy day arrangements prior to students returning to timetabled lessons, which for the first few days will be based in their tutor teams.

Students who are not taking the LFD test enter via the front of the Academy at the allocated time for their year group and house and will be expected to wait in the canteen area until the Health and Safety briefing.

If you wish for your child to take a LFD test please contact samantha.cartwright@bushfield.co.uk to receive a consent form. All parents of our new Year 7 cohort have been emailed this. Please ensure this is returned by Friday 20th August. There is no need for consent to be submitted for current students as this was given in March 2021.

Date and Time of Arrival	Year /Group
Monday 6 th September - 8.20 am	Year 7 (Discovery and Challenger House only)
Monday 6 th September – 9.45 am	Year 7 (Enterprise and Endeavour House only)
Monday 6 th September – 12.30pm	Year 13
Monday 6 th September – 1.30pm	Year 12
Tuesday 7 th September – 8.20am	Year 8 (Discovery and Challenger House only)
Tuesday 7 th September – 9.45am	Year 8 (Enterprise and Endeavour House only)
Tuesday 7 th September – 12.30 pm	Year 11 (Discovery and Challenger only)
Tuesday 7 th September – 1.15pm	Year 11 (Enterprise and Endeavour only)
Wednesday 8 th September – 8.20am	Year 9 (Discovery and Challenger House only)
Wednesday 8 th September – 9.45am	Year 9 (Enterprise and Endeavour House only)
Wednesday 8 th September – 12.00pm	Atlantis House
Wednesday 8 th September – 12.45 pm	Year 10 (Discovery and Challenger House only)
Wednesday 8 th September - 1.30 pm	Year 10 (Enterprise and Endeavour House only)

Testing:

All students will be offered the opportunity to be regularly tested for COVID-19, using 'lateral flow tests'. It is not compulsory to take these tests, but the Government's health advice is that effective testing helps stop the virus spreading and will mean schools are as safe as possible.

- Students will be supervised by trained staff to test themselves twice at the Academy in the first six days back.
- After the first two tests have been taken in the Academy, students will be provided with home testing kits to use each week at home. The government guidance states that this needs to continue until the end of September.
- Lateral flow tests are quick and easy to administer, depending on the test this is either using a swab of your nose and throat, or swabbing both nostrils. Results take around half an hour from testing.
- It is recommended that no food or drink is taken 30 minutes prior to taking the test.
- As students will remain socially distanced in the sports centre until their first negative result, please ensure that your child brings a book or their school work for this time.
- Students will also need a drink and some food which they can have after being tested.
- Students will be allowed to attend lessons as normal after their first negative result.
- If your child tests positive, parents will be called immediately to collect.
- Once students have received their home testing kits, like last academic year, parents and carers will be required to report results to the Academy via the TestRegister and on the NHS government website.
- Students who develop COVID-19 symptoms should self-isolate immediately, as they would now, according to Government guidelines.
- The Academy will retain a 'small' testing site for those unable to test at home, while all our staff will also be given twice weekly home tests.

Arrival and Departures following your child's initial test days

8.20 – 8.40am	Bookable Breakfast club – arrival through the front entrance
8.30 – 8.40am	Gates open – year groups to enter the building through their own year base Gates close at 8.40am
Year 7	Red base
Year 8	Yellow base
Year 9	Teal base
Year 10	Blue base
Year 11	Green base
Year 12/13	Sixth form gate (by green base entrance)
3.10 pm	Departure

Uniform

We return to full Academy uniform in September. Arriving at the Academy well-presented and in uniform indicates that the students are ready to work hard and achieve the high standards we expect from them. On the days that your child has PE or Performing Arts they need to bring their kit to get changed into for these specific lessons only. Can I draw your attention to the uniform expectations which can be viewed on the website.

If you have any questions, or are in any doubt, please contact your child's pastoral leaders in the first instance.

Heads of Year and SLT links for 2021/2022 will be as follows:

Year Group	Head of Year	Year Support Assistant	SLT link
7	Mr McMillan	Mrs Cartwright	Mr Bishop
8	Ms Davies	Mrs Wright	Mr Thorpe
9	Mrs Conway	Miss Stevens	Mrs Colbran
10	Miss Wardell	Miss Kendrick	Mr Hate
11	Mr Tan	Mrs Reid	Miss Rhodes
6 th Form	Mrs Manji	Mrs Dair (Admin Assistant)	Ms Forrester



Behaviour expectations:

Over the last academic year our students have worked with us in meeting our expectations and following new routines to keep everyone safe. At the start of term, I will be reinforcing our Academy values of “Opportunity, Belief and Aspiration” and our three rules of “Ready, Respectful and Safe”. Please can I ask that you go through the attached updated ‘Home Academy Agreement’ with your child. This Agreement does not need to be returned, as attendance at the Academy is taken as acceptance of these boundaries. I will be going over these expectations with all students when they return to the Academy, but having your support in explaining to your child why it is vital that these expectations are followed, will be extremely helpful.

Seclusion will be in operation and replace the consequence of Fixed Term Exclusion except in extremely serious incidents or serious breaches of the behaviour policy.

Drinks:

We encourage all students to bring water to drink during the day, as due to the current restrictions we have lower capacity on our water fountains throughout the buildings. Can I take this opportunity to remind you all that energy/fizzy drinks are not permitted within the Academy.

Bicycles:

If your child normally cycles to the Academy, we will continue the normal ‘lock-up’ provision including testing days.

COVID-19:

If your child or anyone in your household is displaying symptoms of COVID-19, do not send your child to the Academy. Inform the Academy of this and follow the government guidelines of isolating and getting tested. Once you have received a test result, please inform the Academy. Following government guidance, any student displaying symptoms of COVID-19 will be isolated and parents will be contacted to collect them immediately.

<https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/COVID-19-stay-at-home-guidance/stay-at-home-guidance-for-households-with-possible-coronavirus-COVID-19-infection>

In the event of a ‘positive’ result I will follow guidance from Public Health England.

COVID-19 - Risk Assessment and Guidance:

Can I also draw your attention to the documents available on the Academy’s website (accessed through the home page).

If you have any urgent questions please contact Mrs Colbran, Deputy Principal at helen.colbran@bushfield.co.uk. I look forward to welcoming our students back in September.

Yours sincerely



Dennis Kirwan
Principal

