

Date 23.08.2021 – Year 7

Dear parents and carers,

I hope that you and your child(ren) are enjoying the summer break, it is important that the summer break is used to relax and spend time to connect with friends and family following the restrictions that COVID placed upon all of us. Although school has been closed over the summer our staff have been working hard preparing for the next academic year and we are really excited to welcome you to back to school in September and in my first year as Principal I want us all to make an excellent start to the 2021 academic year.

I wanted to write to you to give you an update on our plans for September and provide important information around the steps we are taking to ensure all the necessary precautions are in place in relation to COVID-19. There is lots of information to take in but please spend the time reading through the below so that you are really clear on our approach.

Start of Term dates:

Students in **Year 7** will start on **Monday 6th September at 8.25am**

Students in **Years 8, 9, 10 and 11** will start on **Monday 6th September at 11.00am**

Entrance and Exit:

All year groups will have a separate exit and entrance which will be clearly marked – staff will also be on hand to provide guidance. Please see the table below for your child’s entrance/exit. **This route must be used** and students will not be permitted to enter or exit by any other doorway, entrances will be closed and locked at 8.30am. It is therefore imperative that students arrive on time for the start of the day. **Please note that there is limited street parking around the school site and it is advisable that students either car-share, walk or use public transport.**

Year Group	Entrance/Exit
7	Student entrance, King William Street
8	Pedestrian gate to the car park, Trafford Rd
9	Hub entrance, Trafford Rd
10	Student entrance, King William Street
11	Small green entrance, King William Street

Uniform:

All students are expected to return to the academy in September in full uniform. All uniform can be purchased from Nick’s School Wear, Salford Shopping Centre, 07772 127985. Please contact school if there are any issues with being able to ensure your child is in full correct uniform.

Our uniform expectations can be found in previous letters sent out and on the [academy website](#), can I also remind parents that we do not permit the use of mobile phones/electronic equipment in the academy and phones must be turned off and out of sight.

Cashless system:

Parents/carers will need to ensure their child’s ParentPay account is topped up prior to returning to school. More information can be found [here](#). Year 7 students will be able to add funds to their account until they begin school, with this in mind we will provide with lunch for the first week of school, alternatively a packed lunch can be used.

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ACADEMIES

Keeping up to date - MyChildAtSchool

MyChildAtSchool is an online portal for parents that enables you to view your child's attendance, behaviour and allows you to update your contact information. More information about MyChildAtSchool can be found by clicking [here](#). For year 7 students we will send you your personalised login details for MyChildAtSchool during your child's first week at Oasis MediaCityUK

COVID-19 Update:

As you may know, the Government has published new guidance for schools around Covid-19 precautions to come into effect shortly. You [can read the guidance here](#) or by searching. You can also access useful updated from the Department for Education [here](#). We are following all guidance and this is reflected in our plans outlined below.

Testing

Testing will remain an important aspect of reducing the risk of infection spreading within school. As pupils will potentially mix with lots of other people during the summer holidays, all secondary school pupils will receive two, on-site lateral flow device (LFD) tests.

The first test will be taken before starting school on Friday 3rd September 2021, with the second test planned for the week beginning 6th September 2021. If you are happy for your child to be tested, please complete the consent form included and bring with you at your allocated appointment time. An appointment time is included at the end of this letter. In addition to this students are expected to test twice weekly until the end of September using the home testing kits.

COVID-19 symptoms and positive tests

Pupils and staff must not come to school if they have symptoms of Covid, have had a positive test (including LFT or PCR), or are required to quarantine. If a pupil shows symptoms at school they will isolate within school and take a LFT (if consented) at which point a decision will be made whether to send home – it is important that parents/carers are able to arrange transport home. They will also need to get a free PCR test to check if they have COVID-19. Whilst awaiting the PCR result, they should continue to self-isolate. If the PCR test is taken within 2 days of the positive LFT, and is negative, it overrides the LFT and the pupil can return to school, as long as the individual doesn't have COVID-19 symptoms.

Tracing close contacts and isolation

From September children under the age of 18 will not be required to self-isolate if they are a close contact of a confirmed case. Instead they will be contacted by NHS Test and Trace and advised to take a PCR Test. The household (including any symptoms) should follow the Public Health England stay at home guidance for households with possible or confirmed COVID-19 infection

Face coverings

From September, the Government have explained that face coverings will no longer be advised for pupils, staff, and visitors either in classrooms or in communal areas.

We know however that staff, visitors, and older pupils may still want to continue to wear a face covering. Understanding as we do the current level of risk, we encourage students and staff to continue to wear a face covering but note that this is now a personal choice.

Those who chose to wear a face covering must follow the safety guidance around how to put one on and take one off safely. It is a requirement of the new guidance that we can quickly move back to

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wearing face coverings should positive cases rise within the academy or in our local community and Public Health England advise us to.

What pre-cautions are we taking to keep everyone safe?

Hand Hygiene

Pupils and staff will continue to sanitise their hands at the start and throughout the school day.

'Catch it, bin it, kill it'

We will continue to follow good hygiene protocols around sneezing, using and then disposing tissues safely.

Cleaning

We will continue to have a thorough cleaning schedule with regular cleaning of equipment, classrooms, corridors and social spaces with a focus on frequently touched areas such as hand rails or door handles.

Ventilation

We will continue to ensure that the school is well ventilated making use of the school's air handling unit that utilises fresh air.

Risk assessments

Senior leaders at school will continue to meet regularly to assess the risk at school. If necessary and in consultation with Public Health England, we will make changes to our arrangements to increase the precautions we have in place.

'Bubbles'

Throughout COVID we have had a 'bubble' system in place meaning that year groups remained in their a designated area to access their lessons. We will maintain some elements of this, for example English and Maths lessons will take place in the same classroom, however, for specialist subjects such as Art, students will learn in specialist classrooms. We have made this decision based upon factors in relation to health and safety and also learning. We feel this approach maintains a COVID secure environment whilst enabling students to get the best out of their learning experience.

As mentioned, please can you complete the consent form attached to this letter and make a note of your appointment time.

I hope you found this update informative and useful in providing you with some reassurances about how we will keep your child safe. If you do have any further questions or queries, please contact the school or use the school website and twitter page to keep updated. We will write to you if there is anything we have amended.

Enjoy the rest of the summer break,

Yours sincerely,

Mr McEvoy

Principal, Oasis Academy MediacityUk