

Dear parents and carers,

It has been an unimaginable academic year; when we reopened to all students in September I don't think any of us could have foreseen just how much of a disrupted year our students would have had with countless isolations to deal with. We are very proud of how our students have handled themselves and here at the academy we know exactly how lucky we are to have parents and carers as supportive as yourselves; thank you for helping to make this year easier than it undoubtedly could have been.

For a while we have been turning our attention to next academic year and now that the guidance has been released, I wanted to share with you where we are at with our planning. As we all know, the guidance is subject to change and I will keep you updated over the summer if our plans need to change again!

The academy closes for the summer this Friday at 12.10pm. I know that some of you will be keen for your child to have a good break but some of you have asked for work over the holidays. Year 6 into Year 7 students will be sent a summer work book with a letter from Mrs Barrett. For students who were in last year's Key Stage 3 (Years 7, 8 and 9), we have created a webpage with summer work for them. The link is: <http://www.macmillan-academy.org.uk/summer/index.php>. It will also be on Frog for students to access. The work is optional and you will see that there is a range of activities to keep them busy. For students going into Years 11 and 13, work will be set on Frog by subject teachers. Both year groups come back to mock examinations early in the next academic year so it is essential that they spend some time preparing thoroughly for these.

As you know, A level results day is Tuesday 10 August and GCSE results day is Thursday 12 August. Nearer the time, you will get more details of how results day and enrolment into Year 12 will work. On our website, we have information about how grades have been allocated and the appeals process. I would advise you to look at the following with your child: <http://www.macmillan-academy.org.uk/exams2021.php>.

Looking forward to September, I know that lots of you will now be thinking about uniform. Can you please make sure that you look at our uniform guidance before you make any purchases. In particular, skirts must be an appropriate length and shoes should be plain black with no badges or large designer labels/symbols.

We are hoping that September brings with it a bit more normality for schools. Based on the government guidance, our proposals are below. Please read them carefully, especially the section on start dates, testing and consent.

Thank you once again for your continued support.

Take care,  
Mrs R Coning  
(Head of School)

## Start dates for each year group, testing and consent

The government have advised that they would like us to test students twice (3-5 days apart) on their return to the academy in September. To enable us to do this we will need to stagger the start of students by year group. The following year groups are to be welcomed back on the following dates:

- Monday 6 September: Years 7 and 12
- Tuesday 7 September: Years 7, 8, 12 and 13
- Wednesday 8 September: Years 7, 8, 11, 12 and 13
- Thursday 9 September: Years 7, 8, 10, 11, 12 and 13
- Friday 10 September: All year groups

Many students were tested on site in March, following parents giving consent. **If you have already given consent then you do not need to give it again.** If your child is going in to Years 8-13 and they have not been tested in school before then you will need to give consent (if you are happy to) using the following link: [Macmillan Parental Consent: Covid-19 Testing \(macmillan-academy.org.uk\)](https://macmillan-academy.org.uk/parental-consent-covid-19-testing). Consent needs to be given by Monday 9 August.

If your child is coming in to Year 7 we are aware that you will be receiving a hard copy rather than an electronic version of this letter. To access the form, type: <https://bit.ly/3yTYEvC> into a web browser or go on the academy website and on Covid updates and information, you will find a link to the consent form. Consent needs to be given by Monday 9 August.

## Start and end times (including before and after school)

All students will need to be on site for 8.20am as lessons will start at 8.30am. Tutorial has moved into the middle of the day, therefore it is essential that students are not late for lessons. We are continuing to have a slightly staggered end to the day and we will have different entrances for different groups of students.

| Year group | End time | Gate to enter/exit the academy           |
|------------|----------|--|
| 7          | 2.40pm   | Main student gate                        |
| 8          | 2.45pm   | Main student gate                        |
| 9          | 2.50pm   | Main student gate                        |
| 10         | 2.45pm   | Student gate further along Stockton Road |
| 11         | 2.45pm*  | Student gate further along Stockton Road |
| 12         | 2.45pm   | Dunstable Road gate (near Baristas)      |
| 13         | 2.45pm   | Dunstable Road gate (near Baristas)      |

\*Year 11 will finish at this time for the week only. Following this, there will be a compulsory period 6, further details are below.

On Monday-Thursdays we have added an extra period on to the day for Year 11 students. This period will be taught and will be a great opportunity for students to start to catch up on some of the learning that they have missed out on. This is compulsory for all Year 11 students and will start from Monday 13 September. We will also use this period 6 for

enrichments and other intervention/ catch up sessions. Students will find out more about this in September.

### **Paying for snacks at break and for lunches**

You will need to ensure that you use School Gateway to top up money on your child's account as we do not want them bringing cash on site. The loading machines will not be in use. If you do not already have a Gateway account you need to email: [office@macademy.org.uk](mailto:office@macademy.org.uk) and you will be sent the information that you need to register.

### **Arrangements for PE**

Students need to arrive and leave the academy in full uniform. PE kit must be brought with students.

### **Updated COVID guidance**

#### **The recognised symptoms of COVID are:**

- a new continuous cough
- a high temperature
- a loss of, or change in, your normal sense of taste or smell (anosmia)

If you are child has any of these symptoms they should isolate and be taken for a PCR test.

#### **Test and trace and self-isolating procedures**

From 19 July, schools are no longer required to undertake contact tracing and this will now be completed by NHS Test and Trace.

From 16 August, children under the age of 18 years old will no longer be required to self-isolate if they are contacted by NHS Test and Trace as a close contact of a positive COVID-19 case. Instead, children will be contacted by NHS Test and Trace, informed they have been in close contact with a positive case and advised to take a PCR test.

18-year-olds will be treated in the same way as children until 4 months after their 18th birthday, to allow them the opportunity to get fully vaccinated. At which point, they will be subject to the same rules as adults and so if they choose not to get vaccinated, they will need to self-isolate if identified as a close contact.

The Government intends to exempt people who have been fully vaccinated from the requirement to self-isolate if they are a contact of a positive case. Anyone who tests positive will still need to self-isolate regardless of their vaccination status. Further details will be published in due course and the changes are likely to come into effect later in the summer.

#### **Face masks**

From 19 July, face coverings will no longer be advised for students, staff and visitors either in classrooms or in communal areas. Obviously, if students want to wear a face covering then that is fine.

**Lateral flow testing**

Over the summer, students do not need to continue with their lateral flow tests. Current guidance states that this will resume at the start of term and will be reviewed at the end of September.