



Dear Parent and Carer,

5th June 2020

I am writing to further update you on our plans to partially reopen the Academy for Year 10 and Year 12 students in accordance with the latest government guidelines, updated on the 2nd June 2020.

The link to this information is below:

<https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/closure-of-educational-settings-information-for-parents-and-carers>

In summary, the government guidance and rationale for partially opening to Year 10 and 12 is:

“Our assessment, based on the latest scientific and medical advice, is that we need to continue to control the numbers attending school to reduce the risk of increasing transmission. Secondary schools and colleges should, therefore, ensure that only a quarter of pupils in year 10 and year 12, and 16 to 19 learners, are in school or college at any one time, including vulnerable children and children of critical workers in those year groups who are still encouraged to attend full-time. This is in addition to vulnerable pupils and children of critical workers in other year groups, who should also attend full-time”.....

.....“Secondary school pupils and college students typically travel further to school or college and are far more likely to use public transport or school buses, and they are more likely to have higher numbers of contacts outside of school/college. They are also typically educated in mixed groups for their studies and the scientific advice indicates we currently need to minimise mixing between groups. So for now, we are asking secondary schools and college, from 15 June to only provide some limited face-to-face support for year 10 and year 12 pupils, and 16 to 19 learners, who are preparing for exams next year, to supplement their remote education”.

(2nd June 2020)

The government expectations for Secondary Academies and Schools are:

*“From 15th June, secondary schools are able to offer face-to-face support for a **quarter of the year 10 and 12 cohort at any one time.**”*

Alongside this the government is asking secondary schools to:

- *continue providing full-time provision for vulnerable pupils in all year groups (including year 10 and year 12)*
- *continue providing full-time provision for children of critical workers in all year groups (including year 10 and year 12)*
- *provide some face-to-face support to supplement the remote education of year 10 and year 12 pupils, with a clear expectation that remote education will continue to be the predominant form of education delivery for these year groups and that this should be of high quality*
- *continue to use best endeavours to support all other pupils remaining at home, making use of the available remote education support and ensuring a high quality offer”*

(4th June 2020)

As you are aware, government guidance is regularly modified and updated. Hence, the Academy is responding and adapting its planning to reflect the latest advice so that we have a safe educational provision for all our students and staff.

In my last letter, 22nd May 2020, I provided you with a two phased approach starting from the 8th June, which was in response to government guidance dated 20th May 2020. This has subsequently changed slightly, so I wish to update you on our next steps to meet the government's current guidance.

Over this week, we have been planning how we will operate safely when we partially open for Year 10 and 12 students on the 15th of June. This planning involves the writing of guidance documents and taking the necessary

risk assessments to inform and support all parents, carers, students and staff prior to opening. This documentation has now gone to our Trustees, Governing Body (which has parent and staff representation), our solicitors and associated unions for review. Following approval, by all bodies, the planning will be published and I will forward the links to you on Wednesday 10th June.

The opinions of our parents and carers are so important to us. I would like to thank all those families that completed the survey following my last letter. We had a great response and your opinions have helped us greatly in formulating our planning over this week.

The outcomes from this survey indicates a mixed view, with approximately 50% of parents wanting their daughter or son to return to the Academy and the other half wishing to continue with online home study. May I reassure you that we will be doing our utmost to meet the needs of each family whatever their preference may be over the coming weeks.

To further assist our planning and to keep communications open for parents and carers, Mr Bradley will publish another survey, which will go live on Monday evening. Information on how to access this will be forwarded to you.

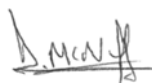
From the week beginning 15th June, we will provide three 60-minute lessons and lectures to small groups of students in venues at the Academy that ensure 2 metre social distancing. The groupings, subjects, timetables, logistics and health and safety information for this will be provided in the documentation published for you next Wednesday 10th June.

May I highlight that any student or family that are vulnerable due to underlying health conditions, shielding, or other specified reason, as advised by Public Health England, would need to continue accessing online learning or face-to-face support from the 15th June.

We are still hoping to provide online face-to-face support to supplement students' progress into their next academic year for the parents, carers and students of all year groups at some point before the summer holiday.

Thank you for all your support and patience with the ever changing government guidance and advice regarding your child's education during this difficult time. Please do not hesitate to get in touch with us at the Academy if you would like further information or support. My letter dated 15th May, which can be found on the Academy website, has a list of the appropriate contacts you may need or you can get to us via admin@asachelt.org or 01242 711200.

All my very best wishes to you and your family,



Mr D. McNiffe
Principal

Principal: Dermot McNiffe, BA Hons, NPQH

