

2nd September 2021

Dear Parent/Carer

As we learn to live alongside COVID, I want to assure you that we will continue to take steps to ensure that students and staff can resume school life as 'normal' this term, but we must continue to retain some measures in place to minimise the risk of transmission and spread.

All students will return to school and follow a timetable where they can access the full curriculum; science experiments, cooking, performing arts will all return and we are incredibly excited to add both music and design technology to the curriculum. Students will have access to all teaching areas of the school and will no longer be limited to movement within zones.

A full break and lunch menu will be available every day for students and we will continue to operate our cashless system. Student accounts should be topped up online via direct debit to enable them to 'purchase' food and drink on site via Parent Pay: <https://www.whitleyacademy.com/parents/parent-pay/>. Those who wish to continue to bring their own break/lunch refreshments are encouraged to do so. The external water fountains will not be available to drink from, so students should bring their own water in a bottle from home. Drinks will also be available to purchase from the diner.

There will no longer be a staggered end to the school day; all students should be on site by 8.45am ready to start tutor time at 8.50am. All students will finish at 3.00pm unless they are attending after school enrichment or intervention.

The wearing of masks is no longer mandatory, but students and staff should continue to wear a mask in corridors and communal spaces apart from classrooms and the diner. Used masks should be disposed of appropriately within enclosed rubbish bins on site and clean masks should be carried in a sealed bag.

Ventilation is key to reducing the risk of transmission. Therefore, all windows and internal classroom doors will remain open during lessons. It is essential students wear appropriate clothes which still meet our school uniform expectations; black V-neck jumper (for additional warmth when the weather is cold) underneath their blazer. Hoodies and sweatshirts are not appropriate.

Advice continues to be to wash and sanitise hands regularly and thoroughly. Hand sanitiser and surface wipes will continue to be available for students to use in classrooms. It is important that all students bring their own equipment; pens, pencils, rubber, ruler, scientific calculator to avoid the risk of transmission through the sharing of resources.

Schools no longer need to carry out contact tracing. This will be carried out by NHS Test and Trace. Close contacts who are fully vaccinated or those under 18 will no longer need to self-isolate. All close contacts will be advised to take a PCR test but do not need to self-isolate while they are awaiting the results of this test. If the PCR result is positive, the individual must self-isolate and NHS Test and Trace will work with them to identify any close contacts who also need to do so.

Whilst we need to keep everyone in school as safe as possible, we are also aware that for students to learn productively, they *must* be in school, attending lessons in person. Therefore, if your child is showing any of the less common symptoms of COVID such as a headache or sore throat we may contact you to gain permission to carry out an LFT. If this is negative your child will be able to remain in school rather than being sent home. If your child is showing more

