

11 September 2020

Dear Parents/Carers,

Thank you for all of your support over the last two weeks. I feel the need to share that the response from students regarding their return to school has been overwhelmingly positive. Students have been working well in lessons and teachers have reported how impressed they have been with the mature approach that students have had towards their studies. The loss of four months of education will obviously have an impact, however, I genuinely believe that this can be quickly mitigated by good teaching and hard work, and this is what we are observing in school.

As we approach the winter, and especially as immune systems have not had the regular exposure that socialisation brings, we will see general illnesses proliferate. We are already seeing a number of students with sore throats, this is not Covid-19, and the presence of Covid-19 in society does not prevent the circulation of other illnesses. Obviously, please be cautious about sending unwell students to school, but equally please do not feel that every illness requires 14 days of self-isolation.

At the time of writing, we have had no positive tests for Covid-19 for any student or member of staff. We have had a number of Sixth Form students who have had to self-isolate as they have come into contact with someone outside of school who tested positive. They have all subsequently tested negative for Covid-19 and continue to self-isolate as per the guidance; all parties involved acted in accordance with government guidance. The academy has been informed of some social media comments directed towards the infected person and the Sixth Form students, suggesting that they were to blame for spreading infection. In virtually all cases that have occurred in the UK and across the world, those who contract the illness have been innocent victims. I would just like to make it clear that Covid-19 is a disease like any other, we should not be attempting to apportion blame if someone contracts the illness.

As per my letter of the 12 May 2020, and as per the calendar on the website we have disruption to the normal school week. The summary is below:

	Originally	Current Plan
Thursday 17 September	1.15 pm finish	Normal day 3.30pm Finish
Friday 18 September	Closed INSET day	Closed INSET day
Saturday 19 September	Closed	Open 10am to 5pm
Monday 21 September	Open	Closed for deep clean

We had to move the open day to a Saturday to minimise the numbers on site at any one time. On Monday, the school will be receiving electro static cleaning which I have been informed is used on the London Underground and creates a fine mist that contacts all surfaces. The Academy will be entirely clean for the return of students on Tuesday 22 September.

I wish everyone the very best of health.



David Collins  
**Headteacher**