

31<sup>st</sup> December 2020

Dear Parents / Carers

### Start of term arrangements - update

As you will be aware, yesterday the government gave us all an update about the expectations for schools to re-open to students in January. This is a different approach to the previous update that we sent out to you all before Christmas. What we do know is:

- **Year 11 and Year 13** will begin their online learning from **Tuesday 5<sup>th</sup> January**. As we have a small sixth form, we are extending this to **Year 12**; many of our Post-16 groups have both Year 12 and Year 13 students.
- Students in Year 11 and SUA6 will be expected to attend a Teams assembly with their Head of Year at 9.15am on this first day back.
- Students in **Years 7, 8, 9 and 10** have extra time off as they will begin their online learning from **Monday 11<sup>th</sup> January**. This will enable staff at the academy to make the plans necessary to deliver these lessons – including ensuring laptops have been issued to all students who will need these.
- **Years 11, 12 and 13** will be back in the academy from **Monday 11<sup>th</sup> January** for face-to-face lessons with their teachers.
- **ALL students** from Years 7 through to Year 13 will be expected back in the academy from **Monday 18<sup>th</sup> January**.

What we also know is that the plan to have all students back in the academy from Monday 18<sup>th</sup> January could change. For this reason, we ask that you continue to follow us through our social media channels of Facebook and Twitter or sign up for the School Comms app if you haven't already done so. We will also update the ticker feed on the homepage of our website to let you know when we have sent out an update.

### Laptops

During the first 'lockdown' we issued over 200 laptops to students. Now the plans have been changed by the government we need the additional time to ensure the most recent laptop order has been delivered to the academy and that these are ready to issue. We will send out further information about laptop collection for Years 7, 8, 9 and 10 on Monday afternoon.

It is essential that **every** student in Year 11 and SUA6 has a laptop or tablet to work on during this first week of the new term. If your child does not have access to a laptop/tablet, **they must** come to the academy on **Monday 4<sup>th</sup> January 10am-12pm** to collect and sign for borrowing one. If you do not have access to the internet, they must inform us **whilst collecting** the laptop as a dongle will be connected to the laptop and issued at the same time. Full attendance to lessons will then be expected from Tuesday 5<sup>th</sup> January through Teams, beginning with the assembly that will start at 9.15am.

### Lined paper / exercise books

If you know there is no availability to either lined paper or an exercise book to use throughout the lessons delivered each day, and to avoid unnecessary costs for families, students in **Year 11 and SUA6 only** can come up to the academy to collect some on Monday 4<sup>th</sup> January between **10am and 2.30pm**. They must arrive wearing a mask, through the front



entrance only, sanitising and maintaining social distance from other students and adults. Students in other year groups will have the same opportunity to do so but the details for this will follow when we send out further communication on Monday.

### **Testing for COVID-19**

What we know is that we expect to take delivery of the lateral flow testing kits, with further information, on Monday 4<sup>th</sup> January. There is an expectation that these tests are regularly carried out, for all staff and students upon their return to the academy, to help support stopping the spread of COVID-19 across our local community. This testing is not compulsory but we do need to ask you to complete the consent form that we have previously sent out. As soon as we have a timetable for the testing to be rolled out we will be back in touch with further details.

### **Reminder – Children of keyworkers**

If you are a keyworker and require childcare from Tuesday 5<sup>th</sup> January, you must let us know **before** the academy reopens. To let us know this is the case please email Scott Williams, Assistant Principal, so that arrangements can be put in to place. If you have not communicated this with us before the academy reopens and your child arrives at the academy, they will be sent back home; it is therefore essential you let us know. Email: [scottwilliams@suacademy.co.uk](mailto:scottwilliams@suacademy.co.uk)  
We will then be able to contact you via the telephone on Monday 4<sup>th</sup> January to confirm the arrangements for your child/ren with before their arrival the next day.

Finally, you will undoubtedly have questions but please trust that we have a plan, we will put this plan in to place and our students, your children, will be online learning in a routine as soon as is physically possible. We would now like to wish you all a Happy New Year and look forward to working with you all again in 2021.

Thank you for your continued support.

Best wishes



Mrs R. Hillier  
Principal