



Headteacher: Mr I. Bryant

Founder Academy of the Mercian Trust

July 2020

Dear

RE:

I am writing to advise you of the details of the start to next academic year and also to share some information with you and your children before they return. I am sure that some parents will have concerns about their child returning to school, as some members of staff will about their own return.

Ensuring the safety of our school community

I would like to reassure you that we are preparing using the Department for Education guidance that was issued recently and taking every possible precaution given the size of our school population and the nature of the site. A full copy of the school risk assessment will be published on the website for anyone who wishes to read it. There is a document enclosed with this letter which covers most of the measures being taken and I ask that you **read through this together with your child.** Your child's Form Teacher will go over this information on the first morning they are in school. Advice and guidance is constantly changing and therefore plans could change depending on Government advice. I will email if there are any significant changes as well as putting information on the school website.

Arrangements for the start of term

We are planning to give sufficient time to prepare the staff at the beginning of the new term and to allow some induction time for the new Year 7 students who have missed our induction events in the summer term because of the school closure. The arrangements for the start of term are as follows:

Tuesday 1 st September	Staff Training Day (no students attend)
Wednesday 2 nd September	Staff Training Day (no students attend)
Thursday 3 rd September	Induction Day (Year 7 students and Year 12 students attend)
Friday 4 th September	Induction Day (Year 7 and Year 12 & 13 students attend)
Monday 7 th September	All students attend school

The school day for Year 13 will start at 08.45 am and end at 3.00 pm. Your child should enter the school site through the either Quicksand Lane, Hepburn Close or Gaydon Road gate. Please particularly read the information regarding travel, arrival times and avoiding picking up close to the school gates.

Year 13

In addition, **all year 13 students are expected to attend on Friday 4th September 1.30pm-3.00pm** and enter through Tynings Lane gate and thus into the Sixth Form area where they will be greeted by a member of the Sixth form team. Here they will then be directed to their appropriate form room. During this session, the students will



be reminded about our expectations, the importance of private study and the procedures that are now in place to ensure everyone's safety. They will also be issued with their timetables.

UCAS Predictions

As the end of Yr12 examinations were not able to go ahead, the UCAS predictions will be generated from the assessments that have previously taken place and the in-class assessments that will take place upon our return. It is important that your child recognises that the learning that should have taken place during the period of home learning will also be assessed. Those students that have attended our face to face sessions and have completed tasks set by their teachers should be well prepared. We are planning to address and support any gaps in learning to ensure our students the necessary understanding and are well prepared.

Expectations

The usual high standards of dress and behaviour will apply including the expectation that students adhere to the additional expectations because of coronavirus. I met with the governors before the lockdown to approve the school Behaviour, Rewards and Consequences Policy which can now be viewed on the school website. The main change is that students in Years 7 to 11 are **not allowed to use mobile phones/tablets on the school site**. This means that they should be switched off and not in sight at any time. Students in the Sixth Form may only use electronic devices in the Sixth Form area.

Thank you

I would like to repeat my thank you for the support many parents have shown in communications over the last few months. It has been a truly difficult and testing time for all of us and I am sure that you, like the staff, are looking forward to your children returning to school.

I do hope that you manage to get a break of some sort over the next few weeks before we return in for the Autumn term.

Yours sincerely



Ian Bryant
Headteacher