



Horizons Specialist Academy Trust
Providing infinite opportunities

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Academy**

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Rachel Glover

Principal

Tuesday, 1st September 2020

Dear Parents and Carers,

I hope that you and your family remain well and you have managed to enjoy the summer holiday period, despite the weather and the on-going restrictions in place.

We are all very much looking forward to seeing students back at Mo Mowlam Academy. I don't think we have ever looked forward to September so much before.

Detailed below are a few reminders about our plans to make sure everyone keeps safe in school, as well as being able to learn and enjoy positive experiences:

Students will return to school on Wednesday 2nd September 2020

The School day will run approximately 8:40am-2:10pm with some flexibility for slightly earlier start and finish times to accommodate transport where necessary

Students will remain in their tutor groups for the school day

Students will be supported by the same staff throughout the day

Students will be based in their tutor rooms for the majority of lessons. Some secondary groups will move between 3 – 4 rooms.

Students will access break times in outside zones around the school site

Additional cleaning will take place throughout the school day

Students will have their lunch brought to them

Students are to wear their uniforms

Hand sanitisers are available across the site. Individual packs of hand wipes will be provided and used for students who need support with cleaning their hands.

As usual, on arrival, students will be greeted by staff and supported to their classrooms. We will work through the new term together. With this in mind, I would like to summarise the measures we have put in place and ask for your support in preparing your children for these:

School will:

Monitor local and national guidance and update risk assessments routinely



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Ensure cleaning procedures are robust. We will have an additional cleaner on site each morning. Shared areas will be routinely cleaned throughout the day.

Provide PPE to school staff, including hand sanitiser and antibacterial wipes in all rooms

Communicate with parents / carers when there are any issues specifically affecting your child in relation to Covid 19

Have non-contact thermometers available in school to take a child's temperature if there are any concerns they may be unwell

Promote good hand and respiratory hygiene at all times

Support and encourage young people to wear face masks on transport and in communal areas of the school. We will permit students to wear face coverings in class if they are able to do so safely.

Follow strict government guidance if any member of the school community displays symptoms of Covid 19. We will offer support to any families who have symptoms to get tested.

Engage with the government track and trace procedures

Operate as 3 distinct bubbles, each bubble with a maximum of 20 young people. We have worked with transport to make any necessary changes to avoid mixing bubbles.

Provide equipment packs for students to use to avoid sharing, and ensure any shared equipment (e.g. computer keyboards) are cleaned between groups

Provide school meals / packed lunches in disposable packaging to be eaten in classrooms

Operate a timetable which reduces interactions between different staff in school as much as possible

Plan learning opportunities which cater for your child's specific emotional needs post Covid, as well as trying to fill any academic gaps which may have arisen

Support the well being of individual students who have been affected by Covid 19

We expect parents/carers to:

Ensure their child washes their hands before leaving the house, and on arriving home

Ensure uniform is clean and provide their child with suitable face coverings if required

Talk to their child about the measures outlined above and offer positive reassurances

Keep your child at home and inform school immediately if any member of the household displays symptoms of a high temperature; a cough; a change / loss of sense of smell or taste

Arrange a test for any household member who is symptomatic and inform school immediately of the results

Keep your child at home for 14 days if they have been in contact with anyone who has tested positive for Covid 19, letting school know immediately

Support the transport teams who will instruct your child on any specific seating arrangements. This only applies to larger vehicles where a child may be instructed to sit in the front / rear to maintain social distancing between the bubbles

Only visit the school by prior appointment and if absolutely necessary. Please use the school e mail address momowlam@horizontrust.org.uk if you need a member of staff to contact you

Engage positively with any bespoke plans which may need to be in place for your child for the safety of staff and students

Encourage your child to follow instructions of school staff. If you are unclear about why a particular rule is in place, please discuss with staff.

Please note, school attendance is mandatory. If your child is absent from school due to Covid 19, this will not affect their attendance, however school must be confident that a child's absence is necessary, which means medical evidence may be required. It is essential that you contact school as soon as you know that your child will be absent.

Term Dates

Autumn Term 1: Wednesday 2nd September- Friday 23rd October

Autumn Term 2: Tuesday 3rd November- Friday 18th December

Transport

You might be wondering about face coverings and whether your child will be required to wear one on the home to school transport.

Local authorities are to advise that children and young people aged 11 or over to wear a face covering when travelling on dedicated transport. This does not apply to people who are exempt from wearing a face covering on public transport.

Until the start of the autumn term, children and young people have not been expected to wear face coverings on dedicated transport, although they have been able to if they wish. They are adopting this new position in light of all children returning to education full-time and the fact that '1 metre plus' social distancing measures will not uniformly apply on dedicated school or college transport.

A face covering is a covering of any type which covers your nose and mouth. Reusable or single-use face coverings are available for parents and carers to buy. A scarf, bandana, religious garment or hand-made cloth covering may also be used but these must securely fit round the side of the face.

Face coverings:

may be particularly useful where measures such as distancing and sitting in bubbles or year groups are not possible

may help children to feel more confident about using home to school transport, and parents to feel more confident about their child using home to school transport

should not be worn by those who may not be able to handle them as directed (for example, those with specific SEND) as it may inadvertently increase the risk of transmission

are not a substitute for other protective measures such as good hand hygiene

Therefore, it is our understanding that if your child is able to wear a face covering and you would like them to then this is advisable however, not compulsory.

Results Day

You will have seen a lot on the television in recent weeks about the GCSE and Vocational results. Staff at Mo Mowlam worked extremely hard during the summer term to ensure that student work and teacher assessments

were submitted to the exam boards in plenty of time and demonstrated the achievement of our students. We are pleased to say that students who left last year have done so with the results and qualifications they deserved and had worked hard for, despite the disruption of Covid 19, and are being supported on their transition to post 16 providers.

Back to School Campaign

On Monday 17th August, the Government launched its #backtoschoolsafely campaign to reassure parents and students that schools and colleges are ready for their return in September. We continue to follow the Government's guidance. See the link below for more information:

<https://www.gov.uk/government/news/government-campaign-launches-to-get-children-back-to-school-safely>

To keep up-to-date with what's happening at Mo Mowlam please visit our website regularly and look at our social media pages.

In the meantime, I wish you all well, and hope you get to enjoy the remainder of the holidays.

Kind regards,

Rachel Glover

Principal