

17th July 2020

Dear Parents and Carers,

I cannot believe that we are at the end of another academic year – a year that has brought significant challenges for all of us. I would like to take this opportunity to thank all our students, parents, carers, staff and trustees for showing so much resilience in the face of so much continuing uncertainty. Everyone has really pulled together and supported each other within our strong and vibrant UKAT community - ensuring we have been able to carry on, as far as possible, with delivering learning, and at the same time offer support to our students to help them maintain their sense of positive wellbeing. Please find below some information updates.

September 2020

In line with government guidance we have been making plans for a full resumption of near normal schooling for ALL our students in September. Detailed planning is underway to ensure that we are fully compliant with all the government duties and requirements for student's safe return in September, ensuring we abide by all social distancing and hygiene protocols to maintain the health and safety of all students and staff.

It is likely that all students will be grouped into 'year group bubbles' and will not be allowed to associate with students from other year groups. These year group bubbles will be allocated an area in the academy where they will be expected to remain throughout the day. Instead of students moving around the academy to go to lessons, subject staff will come to their base classroom to deliver lessons.

There will be staggered times for entry and exit to the academy, as well as staggered breaks and lunchtimes. We are anticipating that students will follow their normal lessons as per their timetable. Some practical lessons will have to focus on more academic theory lessons, rather than practical sessions for the first two terms.

Students will be expected to come to school in full school uniform and abide by our behaviour code of conduct and attendance policies. There will be an implicit expectation that ALL students will abide by our behaviour codes to ensure we can maintain a Covid safe working environment for everyone.

We are still finalising the detail of these plans, and we will confirm our arrangements with you by Tuesday August 25th, when we will send you a comprehensive guide with details for our student's safe return for learning.

Key dates for September are as follows:

- Wednesday 2nd September – Years 7 and 12 in only for induction
- Thursday 3rd September – **Return of all year groups** on site

Diversity

Following on from our CEO, Judy Rider's letter, a few weeks ago, we have begun some initial work as a Trust, reflecting on how best we can tackle inequalities, and ensure our academy responds rapidly, with action, to make UKAT academies, positive and inclusive places for all our learners and staff. We will be providing many opportunities to gather a full range of thoughts and feedback, from students, parents/carers, staff and trustees, as soon as possible in the new academic year. UKAT is totally committed to delivering on its values and vision centred on inclusion and respect for all our community members.

Public Exam results

There will be a detailed letter coming out in the next week to families and students in years 10, 11 and 13, to explain the process used by UKAT academies, to calculate the examination grades, submitted to the public exam boards, for individual students. It is important that if your child is in one of these year groups that you read the letter when it comes and fully understand the process.

Social Media

Keeping up with friends and family online using social media has been a very positive way to keep in contact and maintain some normality during the pandemic. However, please can I ask all parents and carers to ensure that they keep a watchful eye on their child's postings on social media platforms, as there have been a couple of incidents whereby some unkind comments have been made which have impacted on other student's wellbeing. Please do have a look at an app called ReThink which helps teenagers think before they post – it can help prevent impulsivity that is prevalent in our society.

Potential Second Spike

We have been overwhelmed by the many positive messages during lockdown with many families getting in touch to say how they have valued the online learning and support we have provided for students. If there is a second wave of lockdown at some point in the future we are fortunate in that everything is in place to continue to provide remote learning and support for students. As has been happening now, we will keep in constant communication if we face this situation. If you have any feedback or suggestions to improve the remote learning and support, we have in place then please let us know.



The staff and myself would like to wish you all a safe and restful summer and look forward to welcoming all our students back on site in September.

Best wishes

Jen Robertson
Principal

