

Headteacher: **Mr P. Quirk**

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Co-op Academy  
Failsworth

June 2020

Dear Parents / Carers

I am writing to update you on the most current information about the phased re-opening of the Academy.

As you are aware we are in an era of daily and weekly government announcements that highlight any changes to restrictions currently in place. We receive the daily information and headlines at the same time as you do, via the news and daily government briefings broadcast on the BBC. Whilst this is understandable what is perhaps most frustrating for the Academy is that we then have to wait for the follow-up guidance to be released on how this will be achieved. This can often take a couple of weeks to arrive after any announcement or change.

From the 15<sup>th</sup> June, we were allowed by the DfE to open to Year 10 for face to face contact. The guidance insisted we did this with limited numbers in the building but we were asked to ensure all Year 10 could attend one day per week. We have been able to offer this to our Year 10 students and we were delighted to welcome them back into the Academy on the 15<sup>th</sup> June. Although this is not a return to normality, it has allowed Year 10 students to have 70 minute lessons in Maths, English, Science and PE or Citizenship with their teacher on one week, and an extended tutorial and 3 lessons with each of their option teachers in the other.

Last weekend the government expressed their desire to have all students back in September. This is something we want but at present the 2 metre social distancing would not allow this. We are also unsure how we could achieve this if the 2 metre rule becomes 1 metre, but we will look at this once things are clearer.

The government has said they will supply further details in the next few weeks. Once I receive this information, we will work on ways to implement as much of this as we can, safely.

I appreciate the delays in communication can be frustrating at times and I hope you appreciate that waiting for guidance and planning a safe response takes time; the safety of our students and staff has to be our number one priority in every decision making process.

I appreciate that home learning is not easy but I would ask you to try to make sure your son/daughter is engaging in as much of this as possible until we can have them returning to the Academy either full or part-time.

Many thanks for your ongoing support.

Yours sincerely

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'P. Quirk'. The signature is written in a cursive style with a large initial 'P' and a distinct 'Q'.

Phill Quirk  
Headteacher