

Headteacher: **Mr P. Quirk**

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Co-op Academy  
Failsworth

July 2020

Dear Parent / Carers

I am writing to outline how we are planning to fully re-open in September. It is our ambition to do this but there are a number of logistical issues we need to address. However, we are confident we can achieve this and welcome all students back to the Academy in September.

On Thursday 2<sup>nd</sup> July I received guidance from the DfE on how I can plan for re-opening in September 2020. As I have previously outlined, it takes some time to look at this information and apply it to our Academy context. I am not able to update you on precise plans for September at the present time. This information will be available later in the summer holidays, and will include additional information such as student timetables. Once the final plan is formulated I am required to submit a detailed risk assessment to the Trust Board who have the final say on whether they accept this. They will not look at this until late July, hence the delay in communication until the summer. The latest guidance for parents on schools re-opening in September can be found here- [Government Guidance](#).

However, I felt it important to outline our initial plans for re-opening with parents to allow an opportunity to plan for the return to school.

In September I can confirm we will open as follows:

|                                     |                                                                                                                                                                                                                            |
|-------------------------------------|----------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|
| Monday 31 <sup>st</sup> August      | Bank Holiday Monday                                                                                                                                                                                                        |
| Tuesday 1 <sup>st</sup> September   | INSET day for staff as per original published calendar which will focus on additional training for staff on how the building will operate for our re-opening plan.                                                         |
| Wednesday 2 <sup>nd</sup> September | <u>New Year 7 pupils only</u> as they did not have a transition day or evening in July because we were not permitted to do this. This will also be their Health and Safety induction into the new re-opening arrangements. |
| Thursday 3 <sup>rd</sup> September  | Year 7 will have lessons for the day and we will continue to support their understanding of Health and Safety in the building.<br><u>New Year 8 and 9</u> will have part of the day on their Health and                    |

Safety induction into the new re-opening arrangements. I will confirm session times later in the Summer.

Friday 4<sup>th</sup> September      Year 7 will continue with lessons  
New Year 10 and 11 will have part of the day on their Health and Safety induction into the new re-opening arrangements. I will confirm session times later in the Summer.

Monday 7<sup>th</sup> September      Lessons for all students as per timetables issued.

Our initial plans and expectations for September are:

- All students to return to the Academy as the guidance makes it clear it is now safe to do this and that this is a legal requirement unless students are self-isolating or have another illness. A very small number of students may have medical conditions that do not allow their return.
- Year groups will form bubbles and have all their lessons in a designated area of the Academy eg. Year 7 will use the Technology and Citizenship wing for all their lessons.
- We will operate the 'planned normal timetable' to offer a broad and balanced curriculum but there will be some adaptations needed due to zoning of students and fewer specialist rooms. Please be understanding of this.
- We will operate dedicated year group entry and exit points. At break and lunch students will be in zones. Lunchtimes will also be staggered.
- Students will need to attend in full uniform in September, including shoes, tie and blazer. The guidance says daily washing of all uniform is not needed. Please discuss any issues with your Head of Year. Mrs Gordon – [lydia.gordon@coopacademies.co.uk](mailto:lydia.gordon@coopacademies.co.uk)
- The guidance allows students to be in normal group sizes but they must be forward facing, where possible. We will ensure this happens where practical. There are no distancing requirements or maximum numbers in classrooms specified in the guidance. Students are expected to keep some distance and avoid contact. The guidance talks about the reduction in Covid cases combined with very low risks to young people if they contract Covid as being rationale for this.
- The guidance acknowledges students in secondary schools need to move between lessons but it also asks us, where we can, to keep year groups apart if possible. We will endeavour to do this.
- We will ask all students to use hand sanitiser on entry to the building. We have 300 in each year group so we need dedicated arrival points to do this.
- Each classroom will have hand sanitiser in; this will also be available around the Academy.
- Students will have strict zones to operate in at break and lunch times.
- Catering will be open for those who use this, but this may vary and may be limited.
- Cleaning will be enhanced by Keir as we have done for key worker students throughout the lockdown and Year 10 students since 15<sup>th</sup> June.

I appreciate that this is a long list but I wanted to give you an outline of our likely approach. I cannot confirm this until all consultations are completed and ultimately the Trust Board agree or ask us to modify the plan in late July. I have really appreciated your patience and support throughout this unprecedented period. We are really looking forward to welcoming all our students back into the Academy.

Yours sincerely

Phill Quirk  
Headteacher