

To Parents/Carers of All Students

Our Ref: SKN/lha

2nd September 2020

Dear Parents/Carers

I hope your child is ready to return to the Academy. I am aware we have written with several updates to restrictions and adaptations we are making to keep both staff and students safe during COVID-19 crisis. One further restriction is that we have to respectfully ask that you do not come into the Academy without an appointment. If you wish to speak with a member of staff please do contact the Academy and we will respond to set up a telephone conversation or arrange a meeting. You can find a summary of the restrictions and adaptations we have made in the form of a Frequently Asked Questions (FAQs) document in the Letters Home section of the website.

It is always essential that we have up to date contact information for your child / children. During the COVID-19 pandemic it is even more important as we may need to contact you to inform you your child has symptoms or that the academy has had to alter opening arrangements at very short notice (this may be due to an outbreak within the academy or due to reduced staffing due to self-isolation) Please make sure you have updated your contact details held by ourselves by emailing Karen Cooper, Data Manager at karen.cooper@clf.uk

Mr Coulstring has written separately to Year 7 parents/carers outlining what Year 7 students will be doing in their first few days in the Academy. Years 8 – 11 students will undertake a range of activities including:

- Explanation of Health and Safety adaptations in light of COVID-19 guidance;
- Time getting to know their new tutor groups and tutor;
- Being given their new timetable for the academic year ahead;
- Exploring their emotional well-being as they return to full-time onsite education;
- Receiving master classes in selected subjects;
- How to study independently – a session to prepare students in case they are absent or there is a need to move to partial or full closure again in the future;

The plan is to ensure students are starting 'normal' lessons by lunchtime on Monday 7th September.

The 'detentions' policy, for your information, can also be found in the Letters Home section of the Academy website. Homework detentions are being run for Years 7 and 9 ONLY as we are piloting a new homework system for these Year Groups. We are grateful for your ongoing support in insisting on the highest standards possible and whilst this policy will not be applicable to the vast majority of students it is essential you are aware of the changes we have made.

In the run up to the end of last term and throughout the summer, together with our colleagues across the Cabot Learning Federation, we have been taking steps to prepare our Academy ready for the students' return this week. Schools and education have been in the news for a number of reasons over the summer, with some chaos and uncertainty in particular about A Level, BTEC and GCSE grades. However, the guidance from the Government regarding how to open schools safely has remained largely

unchanged since early July, which has allowed us to continue our planning in the way we had expected. One issue that has been covered extensively in the news recently has been about face coverings, and whether staff or students should wear them in school. The guidance from the Government on this last week is that face coverings are only necessary in secondary schools in an area of local intervention (as listed on this [government website](#)), where they should be worn by adults and students when moving around the Academy, such as in corridors and communal areas. However, they should not be worn in classrooms, where protective measures already mean the risks are lower, and where they can inhibit learning.

For us in Hanham Woods Academy, as with all of our CLF colleagues, as we are not in an area of local intervention, there is **no recommendation for face coverings** to be worn by staff or students, except where they are using public transport to get to the Academy. Instead, we will be following the existing guidance carefully, and will be training and informing all staff and students about how to keep themselves and others safe when coming to and from, and being in the Academy.

The recent media attention, and the fact that people have become used to wearing masks in shops and elsewhere over the past six weeks, has meant that some people may now feel more comfortable wearing face coverings to school and in some cases in corridors. While we would not recommend it, if this is the case, we will support your child to wear a face covering safely and make sure they know our expectations about safe use. Ultimately, we want to make sure there is no barrier to your child attending school every day, once we reopen this week; if you remain concerned and would like to talk to us about face coverings, or indeed any other aspect of safety in school, please contact Linda Hall, Senior Operations Manager, at linda.hall@clf.uk.

Yours sincerely



Mr S T Kneller
Academy Principal