



Dear parent/carer,

I wrote to you last week to outline the provisional plans for welcoming Year 12 back into school for some increased face to face contact to complement their remote learning. I am pleased to say that we are now able to confirm further details for you.

Once again, please be assured that in line with government guidelines, careful planning has taken place to ensure the safety of staff and students as far as possible upon their return. Each Year 12 student will be invited into school for a personalised programme of Teaching Seminars, UCAS Sessions and Study Sessions during the week 6th-10th July; all students will have at least one day in school and a maximum of five. As per the government guidelines, all groups will be taught according to social distancing; there will be no more than 8 students in one room and no more than 25 Y12 students in school on any one day. On days when students are in school they will stay in one “bubble” for the whole day reducing the risk of contamination.

Due to teaching for our Sixth Form subjects happening across two sites, and the need for highly specialised staff to deliver teaching, seminars are not in place for all subjects. We are pleased to be able to offer a face to face Teaching Seminar for Applied Science, Art, Biology, Chemistry, Economics, French, Health & Social, History, Law, Maths and Physics. In addition to this, all students will receive a UCAS Session from the Head of Sixth Form. We are also able to facilitate some in school supervised Study Sessions however these will be allocated primarily to students who have had difficulty accessing online and remote learning. Any subjects not delivering a session in school will continue to set work online with relevant ‘Teams’ sessions timetabled for them as well. The provisional schedule will be as follows:

| Monday 6th July | Tuesday 7th July | Wednesday 8th July | Thursday 9th July | Friday 10th July |
|---------------------------------------|--|--|---|--|
| Chemistry Applied Science | Law French | History Art | Maths Health & Social | Biology Economics Physics |
| UCAS Session | UCAS Session | UCAS Session | UCAS Session | UCAS Session |
| Study Session | Study Session | Study Session | Study Session | Study Session |

On days they are scheduled, Teaching Seminars will run from 9.30-1.00pm which includes a safety briefing and two teaching episodes with a break in the middle. The UCAS and Study Sessions will run every day from 10.00 – 1.30pm and also include a safety briefing and two sessions with a break in the middle. This staggered approach allows us to manage entry and exit from the building safely.

Later this week, all students will be receiving individual timetables setting out their sessions and timings for each day of the week. **Students must not attend on any other day than those specified. They must arrive/leave at the specified time.**

As we have already outlined, school will be very different for the foreseeable future, so please take some time to read the following information carefully with your child before their return. **A full summary of all the relevant information can also be found in our Parent and Student Guide, which is available on our website.**

Fitness to attend:

If your child is displaying symptoms of Coronavirus, they must not attend school. Current guidance states that if this is the case, they must not leave the house until they have been tested. You should use the 111 online or telephone service to arrange this. Anyone with symptoms must self-isolate for 7 days from when their symptoms started. Anyone who does not have symptoms must self-isolate for 14 days from the date the first person in your home started having symptoms. If the individual with symptoms tests negative, there is no need to self-isolate.

Where there is any doubt, then please do not send your child to school. If they appear unwell in school, they will be isolated, and you will be contacted to collect them straight away.

Please let us know immediately if you suspect your child has Coronavirus or if they have tested positive. If a child or an adult in their group within school is confirmed as having the virus, the whole group, including the staff working with that group, will be sent home to self-isolate for 14 days.

Behaviour:

Prior to their return, we are asking all students who come to school to complete and sign an updated behaviour agreement to confirm that they understand what is expected of them in the current situation. **This will be emailed directly to your child.**

Getting to school:

- All students must use the main entrance on Green Lane at their designated start time. A senior member of staff will be on duty to meet students as they arrive.
- Parents should drop off their child outside of the main gate and must remain in their vehicle (unless prior arrangement has been made with school). In line with current guidelines, no students from different families should travel in the same vehicle.
- No parent will be admitted onto the school premises without prior appointment.
- If your child intends to walk or cycle to school, they must be reminded of the need to remain two metres from anyone throughout their journey. Cyclists will be asked to dismount at the gate and directed by duty staff.
- If there is any doubt that social distancing has not been maintained on the way to and from school, your child will be unable to attend.
- Two metre markings will be clearly displayed on the school site to ensure students remember to maintain this distance from others on arrival.
- Everyone will enter through the main reception.

- Students will be required to wash their hands when they enter the building.
- Once the group has arrived, they will be escorted to their classroom.

Physical environment:

Every day, each group will have a designated classroom and toilet they can use. Students will not mix with anyone from a different group at any time. The building and external areas will display clear signage and floor markings to ensure social distancing at all times. Students will be seated according to a seating plan and will have access to a computer (if required) and their own equipment which will be stored in a sealed plastic wallet. Equipment will not be shared. All windows and doors will remain open where possible to ensure rooms are well ventilated.

Students will be required to wipe down their work area and equipment with anti-bacterial wipes at the beginning and end of sessions. Thorough cleaning of all areas has been carried out prior to school reopening and will continue at regular intervals throughout the day. All rooms will have bins with lids, and we will remind students of the need to “catch it, bin it, kill it” with regards to the use and disposal of tissues.

Hygiene:

Good hygiene is essential to stop the spread of infection. Students will be required to use hand sanitiser (provided) on arrival at school and at regular intervals. Handwashing will also take place at regular interval as directed by the class teacher and following breaks, before as well as after lunch. Clothing must be clean, suitable and safe for school (no short tops, hot pants, flip flops etc.). Students should wear trainers or comfortable shoes each day.

Breaktime:

Each group will have their own break time in the middle of the session, but will not have a lunch break as the sessions finish at 13.00 or 13.30. During their break students will remain in the same room and are allowed to go to the toilet, catch up with their teacher or fellow students and have a snack or drink should they wish.

Students should bring enough bottled water to last them the full day in school as fountains have been switched off to prevent the spread of infection. Students may bring one bag to transport their snacks and water, which will be stored under their seat in their designated work area.

I appreciate that you may be worried about your child returning to school. However, I can assure you that thorough planning and risk assessments have been carried out to ensure the safety of your child during their time with us in school. If you have any questions or concerns, please do not hesitate to contact us by email – admin@ashingtonacademy.co.uk

I hope that this information answers your questions about your child’s return to school. Thank you for your support in ensuring your child understands what will be expected from them on their return.

Yours sincerely

Miss Laura Smith
Assistant Head for Sixth Form & Assessment



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