

Dear parent or carer,

I hope my message finds you well.

I am writing to let you know that we are very excited to be welcoming all our pupils back to academy in the new term.

By being back amongst their teachers, we can continue to support our pupils' education and wellbeing, and help to support them in their recovery from any trauma, anxiety or loss they may have unfortunately experienced over the lockdown period.

However, we also understand that you may be concerned about the safety of your child as they prepare to return to a full academy. This may especially be the case for the parents of pupils who have been shielding or if you or someone in your household is concerned about their comparatively increased risk from COVID-19.

Whatever your concerns, please know that we will do everything we can to put the right support in place for you and your child.

All staff will wear a face covering while moving around the academy

We want all our pupils and staff to feel completely safe when in their academy, so whilst face coverings are at present only being recommended in secondary schools in areas where local restrictions are in place, our staff will be wearing a face covering when moving around the academy and in communal areas.

It will not usually be necessary to wear face coverings in the classroom, where protective measures already mean the risks are lower. However, our staff will be given the option to wear a visor in class so as to not inhibit communication between themselves and pupils.

Because of the lower transmission rate amongst children of a younger age and because there will be much less movement between classrooms, there is no requirement for primary pupils to wear a face covering. However, should a pupil feel more comfortable wearing one, they may of course do so and can bring one in to wear throughout the academy day. However, we kindly ask that they manage their mask themselves throughout the day and if they choose to remove it at any time they are to store the mask in a separate bag.

'Welcoming all our pupils back to academy' guide for parents and carers

We are closely following the government's safety measures for schools and academies, and in many cases, we are going above and beyond their recommendations. As part of our planning for full return, we have also been busy developing a comprehensive risk assessment for our academy, which we will share with you via our website.

We have also produced and attached to this note the 'Welcoming all our pupils back to academy guide' to outline the measures we are taking to ensure our pupils return to the safest possible academy environment in September. The guide also contains all the information you need on face coverings.

Please keep in touch

Please know that we will not take the safety of your child for granted, and that we are doing everything we can to make our academy as safe as possible for them.

As always if you have any questions or concerns, please get in touch with us in the usual way. In the meantime, I take this opportunity to thank you for everything you are doing to support us.

We look forward to seeing you and your child in September.

Yours sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, reading "M. Lathbury-Cox". The signature is written in a cursive style with a large initial 'M' and a distinct 'Cox' at the end.

Mrs M Lathbury-Cox
Headteacher