

CWA/KRE/GHA

26 August 2020

Dear Parents and Carers

Re: The Working Plan to Fully Open the Academy in September – A Further Update

In addition to my last detailed correspondences on 10 July and 14 August 2020, as promised, please find a further update with regards to our proposed full opening to all students **at 8:25am on Thursday 3 September 2020.**

The vast majority of the content from my previous correspondences still stands, however, and as I know you will be expecting, the first and main point of this particular letter will be to provide a latest update with regards face coverings. Obviously this has been, and remains, the main topic of reporting and discussion amongst the national press and social media. Therefore, I will now clarify as to what Plume Academy's current position is based on the latest Department for Education guidance received just before 10pm last night and updated again earlier this morning:

- It still remains **compulsory** for all students to wear face coverings whilst travelling to and from the academy on any contract or public bus.
- We are **strongly advising** that students wear a face covering whilst moving around inside the academy, at lesson changeover and whilst queuing for our canteens at break and lunch.
- We are **advising** that students consider wearing face coverings in lessons.
- It remains **optional** for students to wear these outside at break and lunch times.
- **Any face covering worn must be appropriate to an education setting** although there will be no restriction on colour, design, logo again, as long as it is deemed appropriate and respectful.
- Students should look to carry a small plastic bag to place their face covering in when they are not using it and must sanitise their hands after putting it on or taking it off.
- The academy will keep a stockpile of face coverings to provide a student with if they forget theirs and wish to wear one. These can be obtained from the main reception at our Mill Road Campus and the Student Support Centre at our Fambridge Road Campus.
- **Whilst there is some updated stronger advisory guidance here based on the latest updated Government guidance which can be accessed below, at no point in time will any student be forced to wear a face covering and a small number we know will remain exempt from using one anyway. However, and as has been the case throughout the lockdown period, should we receive any further updates regarding this matter, I will of course inform you without delay.**

Last night's initial Governmental guidance:

<https://www.gov.uk/government/news/update-on-face-coverings-in-schools>

This morning's further update:

<https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/face-coverings-in-education/face-coverings-in-education>

Those who opt to wear face coverings will obviously have to be both careful and sensible with the donning and doffing of these, and each time they touch their masks during the day, students should

habitually sanitise their hands. With this in mind, please find a very short but informative video on the matter and produced by the BBC:

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=NMSqc9SpbJc>

In the latest Government guidance provided earlier this morning, you will also find the following link with regards when and how to wear a face covering. However, I have extracted it for your direct perusal:

<https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/face-coverings-when-to-wear-one-and-how-to-make-your-own/face-coverings-when-to-wear-one-and-how-to-make-your-own>

I will also be sending out my usual student video messages over the next week and as I did at the weekend, I will cover this extremely important matter as best as I possibly can and with the core objective of putting them at ease and reducing any anxiety or worry many of them may still have.

Please find attached a concise yet informative link I also received yesterday and as part of the Government's 'Back to School' campaign:

[file:///C:/Users/Teacher/Downloads/2020.08.24%20 BackToSchool Secondary A4Leaflet Eng.pdf](file:///C:/Users/Teacher/Downloads/2020.08.24%20BackToSchool%20Secondary%20A4Leaflet%20Eng.pdf)

In addition to the part-highlighting what to do if either your child or somebody in their household develops any of the COVID-19 symptoms, please find some further clear advice and guidance issued by the Government in the last 24 hours:

- **NHS Test and Trace have identified my child as a 'close contact' with symptoms or confirmed coronavirus** – Do not come into the academy, self-isolate for 14 days, update the academy daily and your child is to return after the self-isolation period if of course s/he is well enough to do so.
- **We are returning from a destination that has been put on the UK Government's quarantine list** – Do not come into the academy, self-isolate for 14 days, update the academy daily and your child is to return after the period of self-isolation.
- **We have received medical advice that my child must continue shielding** – Do not come into the academy, contact the academy daily, especially your child's pastoral leads who can work with you to ensure your child is able to access a good educational provision, and your child can return when their clinical specialist advises you that s/he is able to do so.

Some further useful direct links are highlighted below and relate to the latest updated guidance from the Government and NHS:

1. [coronavirus \(COVID-19\) symptoms](#)
2. [Arrange a test](#) if you or your child develops symptoms. Inform your nursery, childminder, school or college of the results as soon as you possibly can.
3. If the test is positive, follow [guidance for households with possible or confirmed coronavirus \(COVID-19\) infection](#), and engage with the NHS Test and Trace process. It is really important that you help nurseries, childminders, schools and colleges to implement these actions by following the advice set out here and wider public health advice and guidance.

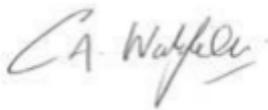
In addition to the further student video messages I will be sending out from this point onwards, by now, you will have also received a letter from your child's Head of Year highlighting that from 12

noon today, s/he will also be able to access a video via their Microsoft Teams account. These videos are based on the pastoral team also attempting to address questions our students may well still have with regards their full return next Thursday. If at all possible, it would be great if you could watch this at some point too and preferably with your son/daughter.

Thank you for taking the time to read this further correspondence as well as the numerous links contained within it. As a result of doing so, and in addition to my previous correspondences and video messages regarding our full return next Thursday, I genuinely hope it both answers some further questions you may well have had in light of the recent and unrelenting national media articles, as well as further reassures you and your child that my colleagues and I feel we are as prepared as we can possibly be for next week.

To finish on a really positive note, throughout the lockdown period, every single time I've corresponded with, or even better, seen any of our students, be it in the academy or in the local community, it has filled me with a real sense of joy. This is because I have missed them and their bespoke and unique characters greatly. Therefore, whilst looking towards next Thursday, never have I looked forward to the start of a new academic year more and I simply cannot wait to see our students and staff walking through the gates of both campuses in just over a week's time.

Yours sincerely



Mr C A Wakefield
Principal