

July 2020

Dear Parents, Carers and our New Year 7 students,

We are very much looking forward to you joining Ruskin in September. It really has been an extraordinary time, with our new cohort until recently facing the challenges of working from home, away from teachers and friends. So, we are particularly pleased to welcome them in September, safely, warmly, and with the educational and personal wellbeing of our students at the forefront of our minds.

As I am sure you are aware, the government has outlined their plans for the full reopening of schools in September and we will be welcoming students back to the Academy on Thursday 3rd September.

Whilst you will find there are some changes to the Academy so we can implement government guidelines and keep our staff and students safe, our values, sense of community, work ethic and spirit will always be a constant that holds us together.

One of the main changes for our year 7 students is that in the first instance they will effectively have their own “mini school” in the Pavilion block. As there are canteen facilities, IT rooms, outside space and ample classrooms, the students will be shielded from the main body of the Academy. This will reduce social contact and, we feel, in such a wonderful space, be a fantastic introduction to their first term at Ruskin.

We have also staggered the start and end time of the school day. For year 7, we request that students arrive for a 9.05 start using the front entrance of the Academy; departure time will be 3.20 p.m.

If you haven't already done so, you will find a series of videos and information specifically regarding transition on our website, under the “Academy Information” tab. Students should also have received a transition booklet containing lots of values based activities to complete over the summer holidays.

Attached, you will find our overarching plans for the return to the Academy. These are, of course, subject to any change in guidance. Throughout the summer holiday, the academy will keep you updated and provide further details, for year group and further specifics.

In the meantime, I wish you all a good summer holiday.

Yours Sincerely,



Ms R Wyles, Headteacher

Headteacher: Ms R Wyles

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As an Academy, we have looked closely at the guidance regarding the full reopening of schools. Our overarching risk assessment can be found on the academy website under the “Parent” tab, via Public Health England Guidance drop down to “Priory Ruskin Risk Assessment Autumn”. The guidance is subject to change and the risk assessment is responsive to this. **Please note, guidance and therefore plans may be subject to change.**

As an Academy, we are currently working hard to implement the guidance to ensure the safe return of our students. As a result, we have made some changes to the operations of the academy in order to minimize social contact and follow systems of control:

Minimizing social contact

Students will work in year group bubbles. They will be assigned to specific year group blocks and specialist teaching rooms within the academy in order to minimize movement and to prevent contact with other year group bubbles.

At times, students taking options will need to access specialist rooms outside of their allocated block; movement will be supported by a rigorous one way system around the Academy.

The start and end of school will be staggered, as will break and lunch times.

Students will be assigned specific zones and food outlets to access outside space and food provision, namely:

The Pavilion

The Canteen

The two outside catering cabins.

As an interim measure, our Heads of House will work a dual role, as Heads of year, but also maintaining our House system, which is a crucial aspect of our ethos as an academy. This is to ensure that students of different years do not mix. As an interim measure, student tutor groups will revert to a year group model.

Systems of control:

1. *Minimising contact with individuals who are unwell by ensuring those who are symptomatic, or within their household are symptomatic, do not attend the Academy.*

The academy will provide a further follow up letter with regards to this. However, in summary, staff and students should follow the [staying at home guidance](#). [The academy will engage with the NHS track and trace process and work with the local health protection team, as per the guidance.](#)

2. *Clean hands thoroughly as more often*

Students will be required to wash hands/ sanitise :

Before entering the academy

Entering blocks

Exiting block

Before entering a new room within their block (or specialist block)

At break and lunch times

Before exiting the academy

To facilitate this, in addition to the hand sanitiser stations already in place around the academy and in classrooms, we will be purchasing further wall mounted dispensers at entry and exit points around the site.

3. *Ensuring good respiratory hygiene*

Students will be reminded of good respiratory hygiene by promoting the “catch it, kill it, bin it approach”.

4. *Enhanced cleaning*

The academy will continue its enhanced cleaning regime. In addition, we are looking to increase the number of on site cleaners who are with us throughout the day.

The government has produced guidance for parents; the link can be found below, or through the wider Public Health England link on our website.

<https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/what-parents-and-carers-need-to-know-about-early-years-providers-schools-and-colleges-during-the-coronavirus-covid-19-outbreak/what-parents-and-carers-need-to-know-about-early-years-providers-schools-and-colleges-in-the-autumn-term>

As indicated above, further correspondence will be forthcoming over the summer break. Whilst the Academy is closed to students, reception will remain staffed.

I would once again like to thank parents for their ongoing support and understanding during these challenging times. As an academy, we are incredibly pleased to be welcoming our students back in a safe and welcoming environment. Should you have any specific concerns, please do not hesitate to contact the pastoral team at the Academy.