



Dear Parents/Carers

I am writing to you with some updates to our COVID arrangements to ensure that the site runs as smoothly as possible.

The start back has been really successful with the vast majority of students returning with a positive attitude towards school and enjoying spending time with their peers. Having made changes to the day and how students are managed, I would like to take the opportunity to inform you of some amendments to our systems and reminders of the key expectations that we have that will ensure that all students are being kept safe.

#### **Changes to the start of the day for KS4**

As of Monday 21st September all year 10 and 11 students will be expected to be on the MUGA at the slightly earlier time of 8.40. A bell will then be rung for line up at 8.43 and students will start to move towards the building at 8.45.

#### **Update on lunchtime arrangements**

On Wednesday 16th and Thursday 17th we are going to allow year 7 students access to the dining hall to buy food at lunch. This will be extended to year 8 on Friday 18th as long as their Wisepay account is in credit.

If this is manageable, as of Monday 21st September we are now going to trial serving all year 7-11 students in the canteen including those who are not entitled to free school meals alongside those that are. Where possible we would still encourage students to bring a packed lunch. If you wish your child to pay for a school lunch, please ensure that money is transferred to their Wisepay account.

#### **Covid Testing**

Please can I remind parents that they need to be absolutely sure that their child has COVID symptoms before they keep their child at home and inform us as a school. As a parent, once you have decided to inform us, we are required by Public Health England to inform parents that there is a suspected case on site. Once this has been declared you must ensure that your child has a test and in order for your child to return to the academy we must see evidence of a negative test result or your child will need to continue to isolate. There are three main symptoms of COVID; temperature, continuous cough, loss of taste and smell. There are only two other reasons to isolate, firstly if a member of your household has tested positive or is awaiting a test result or your child has been directed to isolate through Test and Trace.

#### **Travel to and from the academy**

On Monday 14th Sept 2020 new COVID legislation came into force making it illegal to meet in groups of more than 6 either indoors or outdoors. This includes children travelling to school and home from school in the afternoon. We are aware that this can be confusing for students who can sit in class of 30 all day but, as soon as they leave school cannot be in groups of more than 6. Please remind your students to be aware of the legislation and alert to the number of people they are socialising with. The only exemptions to this legislation are in the workplace, education and organised sports. Police will be patrolling the areas around schools and have been granted powers to disperse groups of more than 6 if they come from multiple households.

It has been reported to us that some students are removing their face covering on public transport. This is a legal requirement and all students over the age of 12 must adhere to it. Please can you discuss it with your child at home and make sure that they have the appropriate face covering.

### **Lanyards**

All students are expected to wear their lanyard on the school site. This is for their own safety and helps staff maintain year group bubbles. Please ensure that your child leaves home every day with the lanyard on their person.

### **MS Teams for homework**

There have been some requests for guidance using MS Teams for homework. We will be sending out a separate guidance document shortly that will help students support their child in the completion of homework.

I hope that you find these updates useful. Please do not hesitate to contact the academy if you have any further questions

Kind regards



Ms A Downey  
PRINCIPAL

Ark Putney Academy

Tel: 020 8788 3421



*Preparing every student to be a pillar in any community*