



2nd September, 2020

Dear parents and carers

I hope that your children are as excited to return to school as we are. This is my final letter to you before we start admitting students tomorrow morning starting with our new year 7 cohort.

As you will be aware the government is constantly updating its guidance and as such we need to respond to these updates and adjust our preparations for safely re-opening the academy.

Please note the following changes/additions to the guidance regarding face masks and travel to and from school.

Travel to and from School

To support children getting to school on London's buses safely and on time, TfL are adding 200 extra buses to the network from 1st September -31st October, and have changed the capacity on buses.

TfL are also going to be running special 'school service' buses between the hours of 07:30 – 09:30 and 14:30 - 16:30. These buses are for children travelling without adults and students travelling on the buses below will be able to benefit from extra buses or the special school service buses. Below are the key bus routes used by APA students. When students see the sign 'school service only' they should use this bus

Bus route	Extra buses	School service in the morning	School service in the afternoon
85		Yes	
93		Yes	Yes
170		Yes	Yes
493	Yes		

Double deck buses with multiple doors now have a capacity of 30 people. Drivers have the discretion to allow up to 35 passengers, if households are travelling together. Single deck buses now have a capacity of between 11 and 14 people. Drivers have the discretion to allow up to 18 passengers if households are travelling together, depending on the size of the bus. We know that travelling to school have become more complex and students will need to plan for changes to their journey in terms of timings. **Students must be mindful of their behaviour on buses and ensure that they socially distance and wear a mask if they are 12 years old and over.**

Masks

Last week the government issued guidance on the wearing of masks in schools. **The guidance says that the government is *not* recommending face coverings are necessary generally because of the mitigating measures already in place within schools. Education leaders *may* decide to recommend the wearing of face coverings – for pupils and staff – in communal areas where social distancing cannot be safely managed.**

Having given consideration to this APA's policy is as follows:

- If students wish to wear a face covering in communal inside areas they may do so. Masks do not need to be worn in the playground or external spaces
- They must wear the mask appropriately or it must be returned to their bag/pocket. This means that it must cover their mouth and nose. Under no circumstances should students wear their face mask on their sleeve,

under their chin or carry it in their hand. This is not COVID safe and presents more of a risk than not wearing a mask.

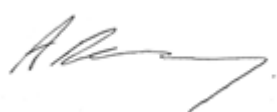
- If a student wears a mask inappropriately it will be confiscated by a member of staff.
- The face mask that is worn in school must be different from the one students travel in
- All masks must be washed and changed on a regular basis if they are to offer any protection
- Students should not wear face coverings in classrooms unless there is specific health reason. This must be negotiated with a member of SLT and will involve a parental conversation
- The school reserves the right to define what is an appropriate face covering and ask students to remove masks that they deem inappropriate
- Masks should be plain with no defined pattern, emblem or logo. They should be either green, grey or black
- The use of disposable masks is not encouraged for environmental and hygiene reasons

This policy will be kept under review in accordance with government guidance and the localised impact of the virus.

A final reminder of start days/timings and entrance points for each year group below:

Year 7	Thursday 3rd September (3 days of Pillar induction)	Gates will open at 8.00am for an 8.25am start through the Pullman Gardens Entrance 2 and assemble on the Elephant playground. Lunch will be provided for all students for the first two days of school. Students will be dismissed at 3.00pm The academy will be closed for this year group on Tuesday 8th September and they will return full-time Wednesday 9th September
Year 8	Monday 7th September (1 day of Pillar induction)	Gates will open at 8.00am for an 8.25am start through the Pullman Gardens Entrance 2 and assemble on the hard court. Students will be dismissed at 3.00pm The academy will be closed for this year group on Tuesday 8th September and they will return full-time Wednesday 9th September
Year 9	Monday 7th September (1 day of Pillar induction)	Gates will open at 8.00am for an 8.25am start through the Pullman Gardens Entrance 2 and assemble by the sports hall. Students will be dismissed at 3.00pm The academy will be closed for this year group on Tuesday 8th September and they will return full-time Wednesday 9th September
Year 10	Tuesday 8th September (1 day of Pillar induction)	Gates will open at 8.30am for an 8.45am start through the Haywards Gardens Entrance 2 and assemble on the MUGA in Zone 1. Students will be dismissed from 3.20pm onwards
Year 11	Tuesday 8th September (1 day of Pillar induction)	Gates will open at 8.30am for an 8.45am start through the Haywards Gardens Entrance 2 and assemble on the MUGA in Zone 2. Students will be dismissed from 3.20pm onwards
Year 12/13	Friday 4th and Monday 7th Sept Tuesday 8th September Pillar Induction	1 to 1 Interviews – students will be designated a slot Arrive at 8.30am and go straight to form rooms through Haywards Gardens Entrance 2 Students will be dismissed at 3.20pm

Best wishes



Alison Downey
PRINCIPAL

Ark Putney Academy