



18 September 2020

Dear Parents/Carers

As we reach the end of week 3, it is hard to believe so many of our students were away from the Academy for so long. They have adapted quickly to the new systems and timetables and the behaviour of the students has been fantastic. It is a challenge for our teaching staff too; teachers changing rooms every lesson and adapting their teaching so as to maintain a social distance, but they have risen to this challenge and I am very proud of the innovative and successful approaches taking place across the Academy. Our support staff have also changed many aspects of their roles and introduced new routines to ensure the continuing smooth running of the Academy.

With so many changes we have encountered some problems and have worked to resolve these quickly; we thank you for your support and patience. As we continue to ensure the site is safe and the students are upholding the high expectations at Trentham Academy, we ask for your support in the following areas:

PE Kit

Students are now wearing Trentham PE kit on days when they have PE or Dance. Please ensure your child attends wearing the Trentham uniform PE kit. We recognise it is difficult to ensure kit is washed when students have PE on consecutive days but please ensure that your child's kit contains only plain black shorts or tracksuit bottoms along with a plain white T-shirt and plain black hoodie in the short term. Students may wish to wear their blazer over their PE kit.

Equipment

Wearing PE kit is presenting some issues surrounding equipment as students often use their blazers to carry these items. Students must make sure they still bring their A2L, classroom equipment and **2 masks** to the Academy each day.

Masks

Unfortunately, the number of masks we are having to issue each day continues to increase. We all need to work together for the benefit of our community to ensure we are as safe as possible and therefore we request your strong support with this. Students will also be issued with a written warning if masks are not worn in areas where it is compulsory (unless medically exempt), it is vital we have your support with this. Please remind your child that masks must be worn on



Headteacher: Mr M Whittingham BSc PGCE AST PGC Med NASENCO NPQH

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entering the Academy site each morning. We will be starting to sell masks to students who do not have one when they enter the school. This charge will enable us to keep a supply of student PPE in the building to support parents. The masks will be charged at 50 pence per mask. They are a compulsory piece of student equipment.

Uniform

Thank you for ensuring the vast majority of students are attending the Academy every day in their uniform and meeting Academy expectations. We must remind students though that our uniform policy allows only one pair of plain earrings, no nose studs and no other jewellery including rings, bracelets and necklaces. We also ask for hair colour to be natural and that make-up is discreet. False eyelashes and nails are not permitted.

Visitors

We have had an increased number of parents arriving at reception with various items for students. We politely request that parents do not come on to the Academy site unless they have an appointment, or there is an emergency, in order to support our risk strategy to reduce the number of adults visiting the Academy.

Water Bottles

Please ensure your child brings a water bottle to school. We cannot supply cups from reception as this is creating unnecessary numbers of students in this area. Students can always purchase drinks from the canteen.

Covid Symptoms

We understand this is difficult time for everyone and it is hard to know whether your child has a cold, flu or Covid symptoms. As we approach the season of colds, we ask that you read this document from the BBC about the difference between cold and Covid symptoms

<https://www.bbc.co.uk/news/health-54145299>

We are also talking to the students about these differences, as it is important that students with mild colds are able to stay in school and feel comfortable amongst their classmates and attend the school day. Please do not send your child to school if they have COVID 19 symptoms; a new persistent cough, high temperature and/or sudden loss of taste or smell.



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Work for Students Isolating

If your child has to isolate from school for a Covid related reason, teachers will set work on Firefly. For some subjects this will be a general bank of resources to choose from and for others it will be very specific tasks. This work will be reviewed by staff when the students return to the Academy.

Walking and Biking

We are delighted that so many of our students walk or bike to school. Can I ask you to discuss safety with your children. Specifically riding bikes in a sensible manner and not weaving in and out of queuing traffic, as this could cause an accident. Also can you remind your child about crossing the road safely.

TALENT

Our PTA met last night and they are keen to encourage new parent volunteers to join the group. If you are interested, please email TALENT@Trenthamacademy.co.uk. This group contains an exceptionally driven set of parents who add real value to our community and have raised much needed funds. On that note, when shopping online you can support the Academy by using the Go Raise link <http://www.goraise.co.uk/talent/?refid=8097> which contributes funds to the Academy. TALENT would like to set up a second hand uniform shop so if you would like to donate any uniform which is not being used or would be interested in seeing what uniform we have in stock please email TALENT@Trenthamacademy.co.uk. Again your support with this is very much needed and appreciated.

Breaktimes

I would like to take the opportunity to thank you for your support with this and gently remind you as we enter more Autumnal weather that your child has a suitable coat to wear as all breaks and lunchtimes will be outside unless the weather is particularly bad. To date, breaktimes have been extremely good with students able to enjoy our wide open spaces in their year group bubbles.

Car parking

Can I politely ask parents to consider our residents and not park obstructing their driveways. We are able to offer the use of the Man in Space public house car park, due to the generosity of the Landlady, but can I request that this is not used as a cut through to beat traffic and that speeds on the car park are kept to a max 5 mph for the safety of our community. I know it would make the drop off and pick up of students much more challenging if this offer was removed.



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Open Event

Our virtual open event for prospective parents will be available on our website from Monday, 5th October. This will include a series of videos, presentations and information. We will also be offering bookable tours of the Academy on Saturday, 3 October between 9.00 am-12.00 pm which will be bookable only in advance by calling the Academy from Monday, 28 September. We are also hoping to be able to offer further tours of the school during the early evenings of the following week.

Finally

It has been a very different start to the new academic year in many ways and I am delighted with the positive approach students have had to the return to school. Our Academy continues to take pride in its high standards and will ensure students receive the very best education despite the restrictions created by the Covid-19 pandemic.

My warmest wishes for your continued wellbeing and again many thanks for your ongoing support.

Yours sincerely



Mike Whittingham
Headteacher



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