



Stanchester Academy

24 August 2020

Dear Parent

Parent Update

Well it is now only two weeks to go until we welcome our students back to school. Re-opening plans are going well despite a significant amount of time being taken up last week responding to the many changes that were applied by Ofqual during results week. Over the last few weeks we have seen an increasing number of localised lockdowns imposed across the county. This update will not only bring you up to date with our own re-opening plans but will also explain how any localised cases or lockdowns will be communicated and the steps that will be taken.

Localised Cases

Attached to this update is the South West Public Health Protection Team flow chart of response. The flow chart has been produced for schools but also provides a valuable reference point for you as parents in understanding the steps we will need to take should a child or member of staff become ill in school. You will notice on the chart that the first step is to isolate that person. We have identified a space within school to do this and you must remain aware that should your child fall ill or show ANY of the symptoms we will need them collected immediately or as soon as is practically possible. Parents MUST ensure their contact details are up to date and that the main contact is available for us to communicate with – data collection sheets will be sent in the first two days of term. Please also be aware that our priority is the health and safety of all students and staff – we will not be able to monitor students to assess if symptoms persist, they will be isolated and the parent will be called to collect the child. If a staff member falls ill they will be sent home immediately and the steps according to the flow chart will be followed.

Face Coverings

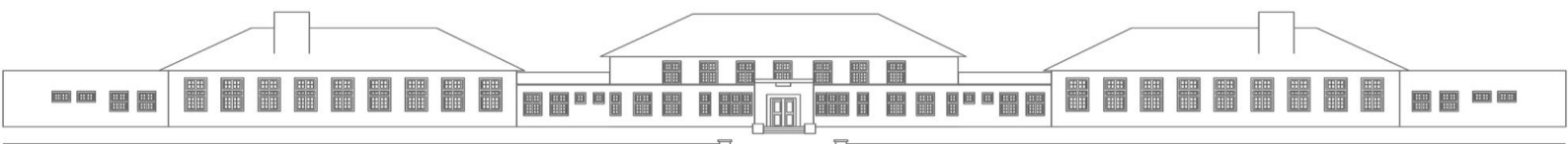
Face coverings are not mandatory in schools. Advice from the Chief Medical Officer is that schools will be taking alternative precautions such as reducing movement, placing students in 'bubbles' and re-setting classrooms to reduce the need to wear a face covering. Students and staff will be in the same bubbles throughout their time in school and therefore not mixing with unknown members of the public as they would be doing in shops etc. Should students, or staff wish to wear a face covering they of course can do so but it will not be compulsory or, at this point, advised.

Cleaning

In the attached guidance from Public Health you can see an outline of the cleaning expectations for schools. We appointed additional cleaners earlier this month to ensure we are able to clean continuously throughout the day, particularly in toilets, the refectory and the science block that will be used by all bubbles. Our additional toilet block will be installed on Tuesday 1 September which ensures we can keep every bubble completely separate with their own toilet block each.

Visitors

Visitors will not be allowed on site unless they have a pre-arranged meeting booked. We have one meeting space allocated in school and will use this for any bookings – this enables us to ensure visitors do not cross paths and risk transmission but also to clean the space between meetings. This also provides a further level of protection for our staff to ensure they are not put at greater risk which could then be passed to our students and their families. If a parent comes to the school



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seeking a meeting they will be asked to leave and to ring / email the school instead. Meetings will need to be booked with at least 24 hours notice.

Personalised Letters

In July each family was sent a personalised letter detailing the child's allocated bubbles, their entry and exit gate, tutor room etc. The information in these remains correct but as they were sent some time ago we will email them out again to ensure you all have a copy and are clear about your child's return on either the Monday 7 September or Tuesday 8 September.

Year 10

On Monday 7 September we had planned for Year 10 to be allocated a time with their tutor to follow up on the goals that were set at the end of last term. As we have progressed through with our planning for the re-opening we realise that allocating every Year 10 student a time in that 1 day is not going to be meaningful. Appointments would be less than 10 minutes with a second follow up appointment for some students with senior staff and / or curriculum leaders. However, this is going to be logistically impossible to manage with guidelines in place – particularly related to the number of visitors on site at once. To replace this we will make tutors available and parents can book an appointment **if they have any concerns specifically related to the goals that were set in July**. Students will be having this conversation with their tutor on Tuesday anyway but if as a parent you have significant concerns related to progress you can book an appointment through Epraise. Appointments will be very limited in number to enable us to follow the correct guidelines.

GCSE Results

We had a fantastic day last Thursday welcoming our Year 11 back for their results. Having not seen most of them for 5 months it was an absolute pleasure to be able to invite them back, in their tutor groups, with their parents and hold a relatively 'normal' results day. As Headteachers across the County we have agreed that sharing or celebrating 'school' results is really not important this year – it is completely about the young people and them being able to take their results forward to their next steps. Results day is always unpredictable but I think this year wins the prize for being the most unpredictable – not only in terms of results but in even knowing what we were giving students. It certainly was an interesting week but one which culminated in a wonderful day with a fantastic group of students who have responded to this challenging year impeccably – we are so incredibly proud of them. Well done class of 2020.

Yeovil Bus

Parents of children using the Yeovil bus should be written to this week. When I wrote to you in July the price of £3.00 a day had been proposed. Knowing this was a considerable change from the previous cost, the Trust have agreed to reduce this to £2.00. The Trust are making a contribution of over £30,000 per year. I will reiterate what was said in July, in that knowing these letters are coming to you very late, no child is going to be penalised for not paying prior to travelling in two weeks' time.

Bring Your Own Device

A reminder that students will be able to bring a device to work from in school. They will only use the device when requested to do so by staff and this will not be for all lessons. Devices DO NOT include phones. Mobile phones are still not allowed in school but should you wish for your child to bring one they must hand it to their tutor at the start of the day to ensure we can safeguard all our students and staff. Students bringing a phone to hand to tutors do so at their own risk.

Timetables and Student Support

On the first day in school students will receive their timetable. Initially these will feel more complex than usual as each bubble will operate under a different timetable enabling us to stagger break and lunch whilst ensuring we have full curriculum coverage across all year groups. We have significantly reduced the need for students to move group or room though it is

impossible to completely eliminate this and cover the curriculum but students will ONLY move within their own bubble and not cross into any other bubbles.

Students will have the same lesson start time across the school but naturally arrive in a staggered fashion and will enter through separate gates. As always students should be in school, in their tutor room by 8:20am. Bubbles have slightly different exit times from school at the end of the day to avoid all students leaving the site at once.

When students arrive in school they will enter through their specified entry gate and walk straight to their tutor room within their bubble. The refectory will not be open in the mornings and students will not be able to visit for example the student office or finance office as this would mean crossing into a different bubble. Pastoral coordinators will now be situated within the relevant bubble as opposed to being in the student office. A reminder too that once students are on site they are not allowed to leave the site to visit the shop.

With the Finance Office and 'top up' machine being located centrally students will not be able to visit these. All fob 'top up' will have to be completed through internet banking. If there is an issue with this for your family please contact the finance office and we **may** be able to make an arrangement where staff come and collect money from students to top up the fob but we will need to keep this to an absolute minimum.

Finally, please enjoy the last two weeks of the summer break. We look forward to seeing your children very soon. We will provide another update not on the initially stated Friday 28 August but during next week, dependent on any changes and the timings of these to ensure we can provide you with a final version of the update plus risk assessment for the re-opening. The risk assessment is updated almost daily but we will need this finalised prior to Thursday 3 September when staff return. Please share the relevant contents of this letter with your children to ensure they understand the expectations prior to returning in two weeks' time.

Yours sincerely



Mrs A Joynes
Headteacher