

28th August 2020

### Autumn 2020 Full Academy Opening Letter

Dear Parents and Students

Further to the information letter sent to you in July below is a reminder of and some additional information on the plans we will have in place to open fully for all students and staff in the Autumn term. The guidance from the Government to ensure the Academy opens safely we require a range of modifications to our 'normal' methods of educating and supporting our students. I am sure that even after reading this information you will have further questions and we will provide further detailed updates when needed. Attached to this update is a visual overview of the arrangements and the layout of the site.

**Student Groupings - 'Bubbles':** In line with the Government guidance, we will be creating teaching group 'bubbles' in Years 7,8 and 9 and in Years 10 and 11 will be putting in place year group 'bubbles'. This is because, as the Government guidance states, *"Consistent groups reduce the risk of transmission by limiting the number of pupils and staff in contact with each other to only those within the group. Maintaining distinct groups or 'bubbles' that do not mix makes it quicker and easier in the event of a positive case to identify those who may need to self-isolate, and keep that number as small as possible."*

Each year group has been allocated an indoor and outdoor Zone of the Academy site as their base to reduce the opportunity for different groups mixing and reduce the movement needed across the Academy site. During the Academy day teaching groups will be taught in the same classroom wherever possible for all of their timetabled lessons to reduce the amount of movement around the site and also minimise the number of students who use a teaching space each day. Staff will move around the site to teach students in their 'base' rather than the normal arrangement whereby students move to subject staff in their classroom. We will provide a map of the site to students and parents in advance of the Autumn term commencing so that students will know where their class and year group 'Zone' will be for lessons and outdoors.

**Risk Assessments and Expectations:** The updated Covid-19 Risk assessment taking into our account our plans for reopening is available on our Academy website. The Risk assessment will be under continual review. Also on our website is the updated policy regarding behavioural expectations. I am sure that students will respond positively and maturely to all expectations as we reopen the Academy.

**Student Arrival and Departure:** We will be operating a clear 'arrival at the start of the day and end of day exit plan' using different areas of the site and access points for each year group to avoid year groups mixing.

On Arrival:

Years 7 and 9 will line up at the front of the Academy in their 'Bubbles'

Year 8 will line up at the rear of the Academy

Years 10 and 11 will line up at the rear of the Academy in their 'Bubbles'

The Academy day will operate under normal start times and a slightly adjusted end time. We will be staggering the entrance and exit to the building to ensure the 'bubbles' do not mix on site. Also, we will be adopting a staggered break and lunchtime, again, to avoid 'bubbles' mixing.

At the end of the Academy Day we will stagger the release of students to avoid large groups of students gathering or mixing.

2.50 pm - Students who are picked up by Parents in Cars will be released from period 5

2.55pm - Students who walk home or cycle home will be released from period 5 and must leave the site straight away

3.00pm - Students who use the Bus for transportation will be released from period 5.

**Catering:** The Academy will be providing food at lunch-time. Hot and cold options will be available but the range of food will be a limited range in comparison to our normal variety. A Google form will be sent to your academy email address to order food in advance. This **must** be completed if your child requires lunch, as the canteen will not be taking orders on the day. This will avoid lengthy queuing and gathering of large groups of students.

Students can bring a packed lunch if that is the preferred choice.

Food will not be available at break-time so we encourage students to bring a snack to have at this time. Also, we have had to decommission the water coolers around the site as the shared use of water coolers is not permitted. If students normally fill up a water bottle at school they will have to bring their own fluid refreshments. We encourage students to bring water or juice drinks and not fizzy drinks.

**Practical Subjects :** We are endeavouring to deliver a broad and balanced curriculum covering the normal wide range of subjects to all students in the Autumn Term. There will be some adaptations to enable this to happen in subjects such as Physical Education and Technology and we will provide more specific detail on this separately at the start of term..

**Uniform and Equipment :** In line with the Guidance, normal uniform expectations will apply to all students in the Autumn term. We appreciate that it may be challenging to order correct sizes online with Uniform Direct and they will be operating a free returns policy to support you if you order the wrong size of uniform. More detailed uniform information was in the Thursday 16<sup>th</sup> July edition of Ax@home Newsletter. We will expect all students to bring their own standard equipment such as a pencil, pen, ruler and calculator. Students should not share equipment with others.

**Parent/Carer Appointments:** In Line with our risk assessment wherever possible we will not be able to undertake face to face meetings with parents/carers. Discussions will take place over the

telephone or through video conferencing (Google meet). Parents/carers should not access the site without a prior appointment. Parents/Carers should not attend the Academy site if they or anyone they live with have symptoms of Covid-19.

**Transport** : The Academy will be running the bus service following the normal schedule. We will be sending a separate letter with more details on arrangements.

**Hygiene and Prevention of the spread of Coronavirus:** It will be important that all students maintain positive hygiene in line with the guidance. There will be hand sanitiser available across the Academy site and enhanced cleaning in place but we also encourage students to have their own hand sanitiser as well, particularly if they are using transport to travel to/from the Academy. In summary, the hygiene and prevention measures focus on:

1. Minimise contact with individuals who are unwell by ensuring that those who have coronavirus (COVID-19) symptoms, or who have someone in their household who does, do not attend school
2. Clean hands thoroughly more often than usual
3. Ensure good respiratory hygiene by promoting the 'catch it, bin it, kill it' approach

We will be providing more detail to students at the start of term to ensure everyone is fully clear how our hygiene and prevention measures and also behaviour expectations will operate on a day to day basis. I am sure students will respond positively.

Do not send your child to school if:

- they are showing [coronavirus \(COVID-19\) symptoms](#)
- someone in their household is showing symptoms

[Arrange a test](#) if you or your child develops symptoms. Inform school of the results.

If the test is positive, follow [guidance for households with possible or confirmed coronavirus \(COVID-19\) infection](#), and engage with the NHS Test and Trace process.

It is really important that you help the Academy to implement these actions by following the advice set out here and wider public health advice and guidance.

**Face Coverings:** You will be aware of the recent Government guidance change on face coverings in schools. The new guidance states:

*"Schools and colleges will have the discretion to require face coverings in communal areas where social distancing cannot be safely managed, if they believe that it is right in their particular circumstances."*

Our Academy site, particularly the corridors, make it particularly difficult to maintain social distancing when staff and students are moving around the site.

From the start of term we will be requiring all students, staff and visitors to wear a face covering in communal areas such as corridors and the diner when queuing for food. Students should, where possible, have their own face covering to wear. The Academy will have a contingency supply of

disposable face coverings to give to students, staff and visitors if needed. Safe wearing of face coverings requires cleaning of hands before and after touching – including to remove or put them on – and the safe storage of them in individual, sealable plastic bags between use. Where a face covering becomes damp, it should not be worn and the face covering should be replaced carefully.

If your child is exempt from wearing a face covering please email [admin@theaxholmeacademy.com](mailto:admin@theaxholmeacademy.com).

We are all looking forward to having all students and staff back on the Academy site but we also realise that the move back to school will be an anxious time. We will be doing everything possible to ensure we support the emotional well-being of all students alongside focusing on academic progress. As mentioned previously, to help support the transition back into school we will be phasing the start to the Autumn Term for different year groups. This will enable all of our students to be supported fully to what is going to be a very different structure to their Academy day. New Year 7 students have missed out on all of the transition experience of visiting the Academy and meeting staff and it is vitally important to help our newest students settle into their 'new' life at Axholme Academy. So, Year 7 will be on site fully from Thursday 3<sup>rd</sup> September and other years will have a phased return.

The arrangements for the start of Autumn Term are:

Thursday 3<sup>rd</sup> September - Years 7, 10 and 11 on site

Friday 4<sup>th</sup> September - Years 7, 8, 9 on site

Monday 7<sup>th</sup> September - All year groups back on site

On behalf of all of the staff and Governors I would like to once again say a huge thank you to all students and parents who have really worked so positively whilst we have responded to what has been such a challenging situation for all concerned. It has been a real community effort at all stages since March 20<sup>th</sup>.

Yours faithfully



Mr D Keogh  
Principal