

15<sup>th</sup> September 2020

Dear Parents and Students

Further to the information letter sent to you before the start of term and the reopening of the Academy, it is useful to keep you updated on how the start to term has gone and also provide you with updates and reminders.

It has been fantastic to welcome students back at the start of September. Students have quickly got used to the new routines and systems we have in place and importantly have engaged extremely well with their learning. I would like to also commend the staff who have adjusted to a very different way of delivering learning and support of learning. The 'team' effort across the whole Academy community, students, staff and parents, has been exceptional.

Below are some updates and reminders we feel will be useful to ensure the continuation of the excellent start to the year and to ensure we keep you up to date with key information:

**Recovery and Well-Being Curriculum:** The Academy appreciates entirely the weight of the experience our young people have endured in recent months. Additionally, we understand only too well that the road ahead may not always be easy to follow. To support our students, we have therefore created a bespoke recovery curriculum to be delivered by bubble tutors in form time each week. This should help students ask questions and make sense of the implications, context and wider effects of the pandemic whilst supporting them with strategies to better protect their own anxieties and mental health. This will, of course, help us identify the students who need further individualised packages of support but if you feel your child needs more please get in touch with Mr Bennett and the Pastoral team.

**Student Arrival and Departure:** The arrival and departure of students has worked effectively during the first week of term. Thank you to the significant majority of students who have arrived promptly to their year group zone each morning. We will continue operating an '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. We have adjusted the exit plan to make it more straightforward and this is outlined below

On Arrival:

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

Year 8 line up at the side of the Academy

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

**Punctuality:** In order to avoid year groups coming into contact at the start of the day, it's important that Y10 and Y11 students arrive to the rear of the site by 8.25am at the latest, meaning arrival at the school gates no later than 8.20am.

At the end of the Academy day we will stagger the release of students to avoid large groups of students gathering or mixing. *This has now been adjusted to have two exit slots rather than three.*

2.55pm - Students who are picked up by parents in cars will be released. Also, students who walk or cycle home will be released at 2.55pm and must leave the site straight away

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 is providing food at lunch-time; hot and cold options are available. A Google Form will be sent to your Academy email address to order food in advance each Wednesday. 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.

We will be reviewing the catering arrangements during the week beginning 14<sup>th</sup> September and update you if there are any amendments to the current system.

**Uniform and Equipment:** In line with the guidance, normal Academy uniform expectations apply to all students. We appreciate that it may have been challenging to source the correct uniform prior to the start of term. From the week beginning 14<sup>th</sup> September we will be calling parents/carers of students who are not in full and correct uniform to discuss the reasons and provide advice and support. As mentioned previously, we expect all students to bring their own standard equipment such as a pencil, pen, ruler and calculator. Students should not share equipment with others.

**Academy Governors:** We currently have vacancies on the Academy Governing Board for 2 Parent Governors and 2 Community Governors. To find out more about the valuable role Governors play at the Academy and the application process please see our website for more details.

**Transport:** Buses are running as normal and students/parents/carers who make use of the service have had information sent regarding seating arrangements, behaviour and hygiene expectations.

As a reminder:

*Double Decker Buses* - Students sit in the following zones:

- Lower Deck - Year 11 at rear and Year 10 at front
- Upper Deck - Year 9 at the rear, Year 8 in the middle section and Year 7 in the front section

*Single Decker Buses* – Students sit in the following zones:

- Year 11 in the rear section followed by Year 10, Year 9, Year 8 and Year 7 in the front section of seats

Students must have and use their pass each day and also only use the bus that their pass allows them to travel on. (i.e if the pass states 221 the student must only use the 221 bus). Academy staff and North Lincolnshire Council staff will continue to check students are using the correct bus and have their bus pass with them.

If a bus pass been lost:

For bus numbers listed below please contact the Academy for a replacement bus pass paid for via ParentPay -

- 223 bus - Dunscroft/Hatfield/Thorne/Moorends
- 224 bus - Swinefleet/Ousefleet/Adlingfleet/Reedness
- 225 bus - Scunthorpe/Gunness/Burringham
- Academy minibus - Belton/Epworth/Owston Ferry/Haxey/Westwoodside
- For bus numbers listed below please contact North Lincolnshire Council on 01724 296296 (Educational Transport department) to arrange a replacement.

- 221 bus - Keadby/Amcotts/Garthorpe/Luddington/Eastoft
- 222 bus - Keadby/Althorpe

**Hygiene and Prevention of the spread of Coronavirus:** Students have shown a very mature approach to the hygiene measures expected. It is absolutely essential that all students continue to maintain hygiene in line with the guidance. There will continue to be hand sanitiser available across the Academy site and enhanced cleaning is in place. 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

**Preventing the Spread of Coronavirus** - The information below is provided to help parents and students with the key information and guidance regarding preventing the spread of Coronavirus.

**Do not send your child to school if:**

- They are showing [coronavirus \(COVID-19\) symptoms](#) (10 day isolation)
- Someone in their household is showing symptoms (14 day isolation)

If a student has Coronavirus symptoms:

- A new, continuous cough, where you cough a lot for more than an hour, or have three or more coughing episodes in 24 hours.
- Fever - where your temperature is above 37.8C.
- A loss of, or change in, your normal sense of taste or smell they need to stay at home and self-isolate for 10 days.

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

**Self-Isolation Clarification:** We are aware that the guidance on self-isolation is wide ranging and can be difficult to understand. We have been in contact with the Local Authority and The Department of Education to clarify this procedure after receiving many different guidance documents. We will update students, parents and staff if there are any changes to the current guidance.

- If a student displays symptoms siblings and household members will also need to stay at home and isolate for 14 days
- The student with the symptoms will need to get a test as soon as possible
- If a test returns back negative the student and siblings can return to school
- People who have tested positive will receive a text, email or phone call requesting that they log into the NHS Test and Trace website to create a confidential account where they can record details about their recent close contacts. Please read the [guidance for households with possible or confirmed coronavirus \(COVID-19\) infection](#) if you have any queries. The school will liaise with the Local Public Health Team and the Local Authority to contact any close contacts.
- If you are self-isolating because you have been contacted through the track and trace service and you are a close contact of a confirmed case, you will need to self-isolate for 14 days. If you develop any symptoms during this period you will need to arrange for a test and your 14 day period will start again from the day you developed symptoms. If the test comes back negative you will still need to complete your isolation period of 14 days before you can return to school.

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. If you need any help whatsoever in following the guidance please make contact with us at the Academy.

**Face Coverings:** As you are aware, from the start of term we required all students, staff and visitors to wear a face covering in communal areas such as corridors and the diner when queuing for food. Students have been very responsive and understanding of this requirement. Students should, where possible, have their own face covering to wear. The Academy does have a contingency supply of disposable face coverings to give to students, staff and visitors if needed. We advise that on PE days, where students come to school in their PE kit they also remember to bring their Face Covering.

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

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 collaboratively whilst we have reopened the Academy. Please do not hesitate to contact the Academy if you need anything clarifying or you need support in any way.

Yours faithfully

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'D Keogh', written in a cursive style.

Mr D Keogh  
Principal