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Dear Parents/ Carers

Reopening the Academy in September

Following on from my letter to you last week, we have been working hard to plan for the full reopening of the Academy for all students in September as the Government have said that attendance to school will be compulsory. Our decisions have been driven by the guidance from Public Health England to implement the 'system of controls' that will reduce the risk of transmission and make the Academy a safer place when students return. These changes have been approved by Anthem trust and the local governing body.

The main difference will be that each year group will be **staying in a section of the school as a 'bubble'** and not mixing with other students. Staff will be moving to their classroom rather than students moving about the Academy. Only Year 10, 11 and sixth form students will have some movement time to go to an option subject however one-way systems will mean that these students will not cross paths. Year 9 were going to start some option subjects this year but unfortunately this is not possible and so they will be continuing with the full key stage 3 curriculum.

First Day Back

There is an incredible amount of work that needs to be done by staff to ensure reopening is successful and safe. Therefore we have moved a training day which was due to be on November 20th to Monday, September 7th meaning the **first day back for students will be on Tuesday, September 8th.**

On this first day, students will need to arrive no earlier than 10 minutes before their start time. There will be no before school or after school clubs for now. Students will be arriving and leaving at different times from different entrances. Please see the following table for guidance:



| Year Group | Arrival time | Entrance gate and reporting point | Leaving time |
|------------|--------------|-----------------------------------|--------------|
| 7 | 8.30am | East - East Hall | 2pm |
| 8 | 9.15am | Central – Lower Playground | 11.45am |
| 9 | 1pm | Central – Lower Playground | 3.30pm |
| 10 | 9.15am | West – Yr 7 playground | 11.45am |
| 11 | 1pm | West – Yr 7 Playground | 3.30pm |
| 12 and 13 | 11.30am | West – Yr 7 Playground | 2pm |

This plan gives all students quality time with their tutor and an opportunity to learn about how the Academy has had to adapt. The Year 7s have a full day to make up for them not having had an induction day.

From **Wednesday, September 9th** students will be having four lessons of 75 minutes. Each year group will be starting and finishing at different times. These are:

- Yr 7** - 8.30am to 2pm
- Yr 8** - 9.15am to 2.45pm
- Yr 9** - 10am to 3.30pm
- Yr 10** - 9.15am to 2.45pm
- Yr 11** - 10am to 3.30pm
- 6th form** - 8.30am to 2pm

Uniform and Equipment

New guidance has come out regarding PE uniform. We have decided that students, when they have PE, **should come into the Academy with their PE uniform on for the day.** In addition to this PE uniform they can wear black tracksuit bottoms they have already or that can be bought from a sports shop or Best Look. However, when they are in other lessons that day, they should still be wearing their blazer. Trainers can be worn on these days but no other days. There will be no PE on the first day.

It is also crucial that students bring their equipment in a pencil case in a sensible school bag. In addition to pens, pencils, rulers and calculators they should also bring a reading book. Students in Years 9, 10 and 11 are also requested to purchase and bring to school the following English texts:



Year 9 - A Christmas Carol by Charles Dickens and An Inspector Calls by J.B Priestley
Year 10 - An Inspector Calls by J.B. Priestley and Macbeth by William Shakespeare
Year 11 - A Christmas Carol by Charles Dickens, Macbeth by William Shakespeare and An Inspector Calls by J.B. Priestley

Please contact the Academy if you need support in purchasing these texts.

Lockers will not be available to students in the first term. We will provide time though, for students to clear their lockers from last year.

Canteen

Please add money to your son/daughter's account, via parentmail, so they are able to buy food in the Academy canteen. There will not be a facility for them to bring in cash to top this up.

IT log on details

Students and staff will have new email addresses and usernames in the new academic year to include Anthem Trust in our details. More information will be placed on our website about this at the start of August.

Covid-19 Safeguarding Award

Finally, I want to share with you that Queensbury has been nationally recognised with the '**Safeguarding Initiative During Covid-19 Award**' from the Safeguarding Alliance. Each week, tutors and our safeguarding team have been working hard to keep in contact with all students to ensure they are safe and well. Students have been excellent in engaging with this which shows how positive the relationships between staff and students are. This really does reflect our CARE values which guides us in everything we do and believe in.

I will write to you again later in August to inform you if there are any changes to our reopening plan as they may need to be adapted depending on the local situation and Government guidance updates.

In the meantime, I wish everyone a restful summer break. Thank you for all of your support this year. We very much look forward to welcoming everyone back in the new term.

Mark Little

Principal

