



ATTLEBOROUGH ACADEMY

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Executive Principal: Mr Neil McShane

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Dear Parents and Carers

Thank you for all your support for us in our new ways of working at the Academy in this unprecedented time. The new systems are working well and students have responded to new procedures relatively well. I do feel however, that students can improve their practise in terms of helping us all as a community to prevent the spread of the virus. It is clear that many schools are having to close due to positive tests from staff or students and we therefore need to consider how we can collectively reduce the risk of spread even further.

The two areas where students can improve their practise in school is in their respect for social distancing and also in the wearing of masks. In order to reduce the risk of spread further, it will be necessary for students to wear masks when moving around the Academy in corridors, even when in their year group zones. At present, we are looking at 'bubbles' as being one year group but clearly any reduction in the size of a bubble helps to reduce the risk of virus spread. Most students are being taught within the same class group or at least, in the case of older students, in reduced set groups. It is therefore only when they are mixing in corridors and in social areas when they could come into contact with the larger body of students that is their year group. Wearing masks in corridors therefore reduces the risk of spread.

Now that we have run our timetable through effectively and are confident that the bubbles work, we are moving to the phase whereby we start to use specialist rooms. This means that students will be escorted by teachers to specialist rooms and back but may well mean that they cross into the zone of another year group's bubble. You can therefore see why it will be necessary for students to protect themselves and others further by the wearing of masks. Clearly, even the scientists are unsure as to whether children can spread the virus unknowingly and so it is prudent for us to use methods which reduce this risk. I would not want students to be bringing this virus home to you and therefore reducing the risk as far as possible in school makes sense. All staff are wearing masks in corridors and communal areas and so the wearing of masks by students in these areas will also reduce the risk to staff. If we are to stay open as far as possible, we need to also make sure that we are similarly protecting staff from the spread of the virus.

Please ensure that your child has a mask to wear in indoor communal areas and corridors as from Monday 12 October.

We will not insist on students wearing masks in social areas where they are outside and also not if they are using an inside area once students are sat down to eat.

We have also noticed and been dealing with students repeatedly forgetting to socially distance. Whilst we recognise that this is hard for children, it is still a necessary precaution to again lower the risk of spreading the virus. Staff will therefore be using the mantra 'arm's length' to signify the need for students to socially distance from their peers. We obviously recognise that arm's length is not 2 metres but arm's length is at least a recognisable and memorable measure to commit to. Please do talk to your child/children about the importance of adopting these measures because this is a time when school and home need to work together to ensure that we keep school and home as safe as possible.

Attleborough Aspires



Attleborough Academy is a member of the Sapientia Education Trust, a charitable company limited by guarantee registered in England and Wales (company number 7466353)

PE Kit

Thank you for supporting our drive to ensure that students are wearing correct PE kit on the days when they are taught PE. You will know that this is optional at present in order that parents and carers have put things in place to ensure that after the half-term break, this becomes the expectation. After half-term therefore, we will not be using changing rooms but PE will meet their groups from their zones and escort them to their PE teaching areas.

Ventilation of Rooms

Teachers have been asked to ventilate rooms as much as possible as a prevention measure. We are obviously concerned as we move into Autumn and Winter that classrooms will be cooler than normal. We will be leaving the heating on as normal but please consider, for the comfort of your children, your child wearing suitable layers under their uniform such as vests, t-shirts, thermals, skins etc.

Non-Uniform Day

On Friday 16 October there will be a fundraising non-uniform day when students are asked to wear red for 'Wear Red Day' in support of 'Show Racism the Red Card'. Any student who participates should make a donation of £1.00 before the non-uniform day. This will be collected during form time next week in a controlled and safe manner by dropping donations into an envelope. Half of the money that we collect on this day will be donated to the charity MIND in support of Mr Seymour's 'Run for the Bus' fundraising challenge. Further details of this can be found on our website.

Please do talk to your child about their expected behaviour on this day. Granting the privilege of non-uniform days is something I am prepared to do but I will not accept any drop in behaviour standards just because students are not in uniform.

October Half-Term

Please note that October half-term commences on Friday 23 October this year. We will thus close at the normal time on the afternoon of Thursday 22 October and re-open at the normal time on Monday 2 November.

I wish you all and your families a restful and safe half-term break and thank you again for all your support of us in keeping the Academy open and functioning effectively even if it is not 'normal school'.

Kind regards



Neil McShane
Executive Principal