

Returning to Lord Lawson – Answers to Frequently Asked Questions

Q: What does the school day look like if break and lunch are at different times?

A: We have published this information on the school website. Posters showing the school day times will also be displayed around school.

Q: How do we plan to manage the canteen and the queue?

A: Students will queue outside (unless the weather is severe). Only one year group at a time will use the canteen. The queue and the canteen will be supervised by school staff. We will explain the system to students on their first day.

Q: Are children being encouraged to bring packed lunch to reduce numbers in the canteen?

A: Students are welcome to bring a packed lunch, which they can eat at the picnic benches outside or in the canteen. House blocks will not be open for packed lunches, to avoid students mixing with other year groups. If the weather is bad, we will open other areas.

Q: Are temperatures still being taken on arrival?

A: We will no longer take the temperature of every student on arrival. We began to take temperatures at the start of the pandemic, when we knew less about COVID-19. We now know that a raised temperature in children is not a reliable indicator of COVID-19. It is also not feasible to check the temperature of 1500 children on arrival to the Academy without creating bottle-necks and queues at entrances in the morning.

Q: On arrival do the different year groups need to meet anywhere? Where do I tell my child to go?

A: This information can be found on the Academy website in the restart document from Mr Fowler.

Q: Can students still access the building early on a morning?

A: Students will not be allowed entrance into the Academy until 8.30am

Q: Will students be moving classes throughout the day as before, or will staff be moving instead to limit traffic?

A: We want students to have as normal a curriculum as possible, with all the different subjects. For more than half their subjects, however, where students do not need specialist rooms, they will remain in the same room, and the teachers will move. This significantly reduces the number of people moving around school. Students will move when they need to access specialist rooms. The rooms for lessons will be shown on their timetable.

Q: Is there a one-way system in school? If so, how will it work?

A: We will operate a one-way system in the school building. Students will go up the two staircases nearest to the centre of the building (Fleet and Turner stairs), move one-way along corridors (outwards from the middle of the building) and down the staircases at the ends of the building (Brookside and Talbot stairs). As we have a three-storey building, some routes will involve going outside the building and back in

by another door. Signs will be in place. This system will be explained to students on their first morning and there is signage around the building and on the walkways to support our students in this new system.

Q: Will extra-curricular activities be running?

A: Some extra-curricular activities will be running, and we will publicise them on our website. Some activities will have to be different from usual, because of health restrictions, and there may be some that we cannot run at present.

Q: Can Students eat pack lunch anywhere under the current circumstances?

A: No. In order to reduce the possibility of contact with students from other year groups, to keep litter to a minimum, and to keep the building clean and hygienic, students will need to eat their packed lunches in the places designated.

Q: Is there an alternative way to put money on my child's finger?

A: We strongly encourage parents to put money onto their children's Parentpay accounts using electronic banking. This is safer and more secure for students, because it reduces the number of fingers using the machines in school, and it means that students do not need to bring cash into school.

Q: What is happening with buses? Will there be more buses? Will masks and staying in year group bubbles be compulsory on buses?

A: Information about buses is available on our social media and website, and direct from Nexus: www.nexus.org.uk/covid-secure. Nexus has told us that there will be additional buses, but students are encouraged to walk or cycle to school where possible. Students **must** wear face coverings on public transport. It may take a few days for the additional buses to come into operation and during that time we will use our school minibus to ensure that students are not left stranded at bus stops.

Q: The Canteen is a communal area. Do masks need to be worn when ordering food in the canteen?

A: We will keep students in their year-group bubbles in the canteen, so they do not need to wear face coverings in the canteen.

Q: How will Performing Arts, PE and food tech be managed?

A: On days when they have PE, students should come to school in their PE kit, perhaps with their school jumper as well, so they do not need to change for PE. They will be able to stay in PE kit for the whole of that day. PE will be outside whenever possible, and there will be no contact sports. Students will do PE in their year group or class bubbles. Performing Arts are following government guidelines on activities, however, KS4 and KS5 dance students will be able to follow the rule of PE students and attend school in their Academy PE kit on the days they have dance lessons. They must not wear normal dance clothing; it must be their PE kit. KS3 students who have a timetabled dance lesson should attend in their normal uniform. Art and technology have more space in their classrooms, and student movement will be kept to a sensible minimum. Equipment has to be cleaned after each lesson it is used, so students will be able to do practical work less often.

Q: If I refuse to send my child back in a mask will I be fined?

A: Your child needs to attend school, and they need to wear a face mask on public transport and in communal areas within school. You could be fined if your child is not ill but does not attend school. We will encourage and expect your child to wear a suitable face covering. If they refuse, we will see this as a refusal to follow reasonable instructions, and use our behaviour management policy to deal with this.

Q: My child does not like to wear a mask: it makes them anxious but they are not classed as medically exempt. What can I do?

A: We understand that many people do not like to wear a face covering, but it is something that we all need to do to keep other people safe. Make sure that your child's face covering fits well but is not too tight. They may need to breathe more slowly and calmly when their face is covered. Please reassure and encourage your child – if they see you wearing a face covering without any problems or complaint (in a shop, for example), they are likely to follow your example. Get them to practise putting on the face covering for a short amount of time at home, and praise them for doing this well. Emphasise to them that we are all doing this to keep one another safe: we do it to keep our friends safe, and to keep those we love safe. The school's instructions on face coverings is supported by the government and by local Public Health authorities. Students need to follow this, and we need parents to support us.

Q: How should face coverings be worn? Can you give any help?

A: The World Health Organisation has produced some helpful images on how to wear a face covering. These will be available on our website. Staff will also be teaching children how to wear and look after their face covering.

Q: What conditions/illness will make a child exempt from wearing a mask?

A: Please refer to your medical practitioner if you think your child might be medically exempt. This would normally be for a severe or acute respiratory condition. You may need to produce evidence for us. If your child is medically exempt, please contact their house block as soon as possible. We can arrange for them to have a sunflower lanyard to identify that they are medically exempt.

Q: Will extra masks be kept in school should my child lose theirs?

A: Yes, we will have few spare new face coverings in school, but we cannot provide face coverings for every student.

Q: Will my child be tested at school for COVID-19?

A: No, we will not carry out COVID-19 tests at school for children, but we may recommend that you arrange a test for your child, in certain circumstances.

Q: If my family now need to quarantine after a holiday and my child therefore needs to be absent will I be fined or can I educate at home as I will be off work also?

A: If your child is in quarantine or is required to self-isolate, we will authorise this absence. You should expect to have a conversation with your child's house block around this. In these circumstances, your child will be expected to complete school work at home.