

30 April 2021

Dear Parent/Carer

As we have now settled into the final term of the year, I am writing to you with an update around plans for the remainder of the academic year.

On Monday 17 May 2021, subject to the number of Covid cases continuing to decrease, we expect the government will announce plans for the gradual reduction in restrictions and that some guidance relating to schools will change. We are anticipating some of those changes and are writing to make you aware of how they may affect your children in the next few months of school.

Facemasks

From our return to school in March, children have been asked to wear facemasks/coverings in classrooms as well as during social times. Subject to government guidance we plan that, after May half term, starting Monday 7 June 2021, students and staff will no longer be required to wear facemasks in classrooms, only in communal areas. Furthermore, we will be lifting the restrictions on student movement around school and their classes will no longer be taught in one zone. Students will move around school and access practical spaces that have been largely out of use since our return. This is an exciting time in our move to beginning to return to some kind of normality for staff and students and we will spend the summer term revisiting routines around how students move around the Academy safely and in an orderly fashion.

Laptops

We would like to begin to collect in the laptops that were loaned out to students to use during the January to March lockdown and beyond. This will enable us to check them, update them and have them ready for future use by students when needed. We will collect laptops in a coordinated way over a number of weeks. Students will be required to return the laptop, charging cable and any other equipment that was loaned with the laptop. Students can bring the laptops to school themselves on any day during the specified week or alternatively parents can drop them off at the times specified below. We will send text reminders out nearer the time. Laptop collection dates are set out below:

Year 11	Week commencing 24 May 2021 9.15-11am
Year 10	Week commencing 7 June 2021 9.15-11am
Year 9	Week commencing 14 June 2021 9.15-11am
Year 8	Week commencing 21 June 2021 9.15-11am
Year 7	Week commencing 28 June 2021 9.15-11am

Lockers

As part of our restrictions, students were not allowed to use lockers this year. However, there are still a large number of lockers with padlocks on, in which student possessions and equipment may have been left. Over the coming weeks, we will be giving students the chance to access their locker to empty it. This will mean that, in the summer months, the site staff can clean lockers in preparation for a September start. Please ask your child to locate their locker key or code if they had one and think about whether they may have left equipment behind.

Uniform

Can I take this opportunity to remind you of our requirements around uniform, PE kit and equipment. Whilst the majority students come fully equipped for school wearing the appropriate uniform or PE kit, some students are choosing to come into school wearing their PE kit on non-PE days or not wearing the Academy PE kit. Please be reminded that students should be wearing a navy-blue polo shirt, navy blue shorts, navy blue Appleton Academy tracksuit, navy blue or white sports socks and white trainers. After May half term we will no longer be providing equipment packs for students and they will be expected to provide their own.

Attendance

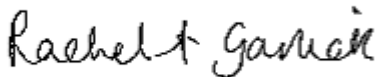
We have only 12 school weeks remaining of this year and it is important that children attend school as much as they possibly can as we begin our phased return to normal.

Can I remind you that continuing to follow Covid safe protocols, such as handwashing, social distancing and mask wearing in communal areas remain key priorities in order to protect us all against infection and further bubble closures.

We are looking forward to a gradual return to normality and, as such, it is important that we maintain our high standards until the end of the summer term.

We will write to you with further updates as the term progresses.

Yours faithfully



Rachel Garlick
Head of Secondary