

MONDAY 24 AUGUST 2020

Dear Parents / Carers and Students,

The Government has now announced the guidance for schools on how we can bring all students successfully back into school, with education from September 2020 being compulsory for all young people.

Therefore, I am writing to you today in advance of the start of Term 1 so that you have this updated document which you can discuss as a family. I will also continue to write to you regularly as any situation changes in school as lockdown hopefully further eases, which I hope you will continue to find helpful.

Along with this letter, which shares when students are expected back in school, you will find the following attachments, which I hope will reassure our parents / carers and students before a return to school:

- **Return to School Document:** A working document that will explain our current approach and planned systems for re-opening the schools. This is rather lengthy and has been **revised from the version issued in July**, and this shares our commitment to student and staff safety. We are all very much looking forward to welcoming all students back, albeit under the necessary Health and Safety measures;
- **9 Point Safety and Behaviour Plan:** Which is an appendix to the school's Behaviour Policy for September 2020;
- **SEN Plan:** SEN expectations for September – relevant for parents/carers of students with SEN requirements only.

**NB: It is important to note that these plans may be subject to change as Government guidance is updated and amended, which we will inform all parents/carers of as things change.**

The September return plan for Giles Academy includes:

- **Thursday 03 September 2020**      **Year 11 will be expected in school**  
**Year 7 will be expected in school**
- **Friday 04 September 2020**      **Year 7 / Year 8 / Year 11 will be expected in school**
- **Monday 07 September 2020**      **All students in Year 7 to Year 11 will be expected to return to school.**

To open in September Giles Academy must comply with health and safety law, which requires us to assess risks and put in place proportionate control measures. We will be thoroughly and continually reviewing our health and safety risk assessments and we have drawn up plans for Term 1 that address the risks identified using the system of controls set out following. These are an adapted form of the system of protective measures that will be familiar from Term 6 2020.

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Essential measures include:

- A requirement that people who are ill stay at home;
- Robust hand and respiratory hygiene;
- Enhanced cleaning arrangements;
- Active engagement with NHS Test and Trace;
- Formal consideration of how to reduce contacts and maximise distancing between those in school wherever possible and minimise potential for contamination so far as is reasonably practicable.

How contacts are reduced will depend on an individual school's circumstances, for Giles Academy we will (as much as possible) include:

- Grouping children together in 'Year Group Bubbles';
- Zoning of the school for separate 'Year Group Bubbles' teaching areas;
- A clearly laid out one-way system on the school site;
- Aim to avoid contact between groups by using a system including Year Group 'Zone Bases', i.e. a designated Yard;
- Although students in the same 'Year Group Bubble' do not need to adhere to social distancing, we will encourage 1m distancing as far as possible, especially when socialising on the Year Group 'Zone Bases';
- Arranging classrooms with forward facing desks as far as possible and where not possible using safety screens;
- Staff maintaining social distancing from students and other staff as far as possible.

Please note the following prevention measures:

- **The school will minimise contact with individuals who are unwell by ensuring that those students who have coronavirus (COVID-19) symptoms, or who have someone in their household who does, DO NOT attend school**
- **If your child feels unwell and has any of the symptoms of coronavirus – i.e. high temperature, continuous cough or loss of taste or smell then they must NOT come into school**

Our plans are clearly laid out in the document attached for all parents / carers; staff and students to understand.

I would like to thank parents / carers and students for your support in advance over this matter.

I hope this information goes some way to reassuring all parents/ carers, as well as both our current and new students prior to their return to school in September.

I will write to parents / carers and students again regularly following our return, as I feel that it is extremely important for all our students to feel a strong sense of being 'welcomed' in school and a strong sense of school community.

I hope that you will feel reassured that we have the appropriate robust measures and systems in place to bring students back into the school environment.



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