



Dear Parents, Carers and Students

I hope that my letter finds you and your families well. We are really looking forward to welcoming students back to school, to meeting new students and to establishing the 'new normal' at Weavers Academy.

My sincere thanks to all families of the school. Your on-going support and the work that you have continued to do throughout the pandemic to motivate and encourage your child/ren's learning has been much appreciated by all of us staff here at the school.

I am writing to confirm the arrangements for the start of term.

Please pay particular attention to the information in the sub-headings 'the organisation of the school day' and 'face coverings' where there has been changes since my last letter.

Transition arrangements: Years 7, 10 and 12

In line with the school's Covid-19 Full Opening Risk Assessment (C-19 RA), all students in Years 7, 10 and 12 have been allocated a specific 'zone' as follows:

- Year 7: In the Maths Block (M16, 17, 18 and 19) and the Modern Foreign Languages Area (top floor of the Maths Block);
- Year 10: In the Humanities block (1st and 2nd floor);
- Years 12: Based in the Science block with rooms in various other learning areas.

Years 7, 10 and 12 will undertake an induction programme to their new key stage on 3 and 4 September 2020 which includes an extended tutorial. The ppt. that will be presented to all students during that tutorial will help to familiarise them with the C-19 RA and the control measures that they will be expected to adhere to. I have attached the ppt. and would ask you to go through this with your child/ren.

On 3 September all students in Year 7 will muster on the school field at 8.30 am.

Students in Years 10 and 12 will go straight to their form rooms which they will be notified of when they arrive at school.

First day for students in Years 8, 9, 11 and 13

In line with the school's C-19 RA, all students in Years 8, 9, 11 and 13 have been allocated a specific 'zone' as follows:

- Year 8: In the English Block (1st Floor and E01);
- Year 9: In The Maths Block (Ground floor and M10, 11, 12, 13, 14, 15);
- Year 11: In the Science Block;
- Year 13: Based in the Science block with rooms in various other learning areas.



All students in Years 8, 9, 11 and 13 will also undertake an extended tutorial on their first day back at school on 7 September 2020 where the ppt. attached will be delivered to them too. I would ask you to go through this with your child/ren.

Students in Years 8, 9, 11 and 13 will go straight to their form rooms which they will be notified of when they arrive at school.

Timetables

Students will be issued with their subject timetables on their first day at school. Please be advised that Monday 7 September 2020 is a week A on all students' timetables.

The organisation of the school day

We have adjusted the timings of the school day which will enable students and staff to have a staggered lunch-break of 30 minutes each day (instead of the 20 minute lunch break previously stated in my last letter).

This means that all students will either start or finish school 5 minutes earlier or later than previously stated.

The adjusted timings of the school day are set out below.

Year Group	Start Time	Finish Time
7	08:30	14:45
8	08:45	15:00
9	08:55	15:10
10	08:30	14:45
11	08:45	15:00
12	08:55	15:10
13	08:55	15:10

At 8.30 am Year 7 will arrive at school via gate 5 (via the entrance on Brickhill Road). Year 10 will arrive via gate 4 and go to meet their form tutors for a 25 minute tutorial in their year group 'bubble' zones.

At 8.45 am Year 8 will arrive at school via gate 4. Year 11 will arrive via gate 5 and go to meet their form tutors for a 10 minute tutorial in their year group 'bubble' zones.

At 8.55 am Year 9 will arrive at school via gate 4. Years 12 and 13 will arrive via gate 5. Years 9, 12 and 13 will not have tutorial at this time but will go straight to their first lesson period 1 along with all other students in the school at 8.55 am.



Students will access 5-hours of subject teaching daily with 2-breaks per day.

Each year group 'bubble' will have a 20-minute staggered morning break and a 30-minute staggered lunch break. Students will be able to access the canteen during these times. Students can bring a packed lunch should they wish to.

Students in different 'bubbles' will be restricted to the use of the courts during the staggered break and staggered lunchtime to reduce movement around the school and to reduce contact and mixing.

Alternative, appropriate arrangements will be put in place in the event of wet weather.

At 2.45 pm period 5 will end and students will either leave site or return to their form tutors for a tutorial session as set out below.

- Students in Years 7 and 10 that arrived at school at 8.30 am will go home;
- Students in Years 8 and 11 that arrived at 8.45 am will return to their form tutors in their year group 'bubbles' and 'zones' for a 15 minute tutorial;
- Students in Years 9, 12 and 13 that arrived at 8.55 am will return to their form tutors in their year group 'bubbles' and 'zones' for a 25 minute tutorial.

Students must exit the site from the same gate as they entered:

- Years 7, 11, 12 and 13 will exit the site from gate 5 (onto Brickhill Road);
- Years 8, 9 and 10 will exit the site from gate 4.

Wherever possible, all students should aim to arrive no earlier than 5 minutes before their allocated start time please.

The school understands that these arrangements may be difficult to organise for families with siblings that attend the school. We appreciate your efforts in making alternative arrangements wherever possible to avoid siblings arriving or/and leaving school at the same time.

Where this is not possible, parents/carers should arrange for their child/ren to arrive at the siblings' **earliest** allocated arrival time. For example, if sibling A has an allocated arrival time of 8.45 am and sibling B has an allocated arrival time of 8.55 am, then both siblings should arrive at school at 8.45 am.

Similarly, at the end of the day parents should arrange for siblings with different allocated leaving times to leave school at the **later** of the siblings' leaving times. For example, if sibling A has an allocated leaving time of 2.45 pm and sibling B has an allocated leaving time of 3.00 pm then both siblings should leave school at 3.00 pm.

The school has designated spaces for siblings to wait in where alternative arrangements cannot be made. Additionally, designated spaces are available to those students travelling to and from school using public transport where bus timetables may make it necessary to arrive or leave school at a different time to those allocated



by the school. Students will be advised of these designated areas on their arrival at school.

The school appreciates the efforts that families are making in order to support the school to make the new arrangements work. Thank you in advance for your continued assistance.

Food and drink

On 3 and 4 September all students in Year 7 will be provided with a free packed lunch by the school.

Year 7 will be set up to use the school's bio-metric system and **parent pay** before 7 September 2020 so that they can pay for food and drink in the canteen.

Students in Years 8-13 will be able to purchase food and drink in the school canteen in the usual way provided that they have sufficient funds on their **parent pay** account.

The canteen will be the only venue for the sale of food and drink as the 'Wild Cat Express' will not be available.

To avoid the risk of infection in line with public health advice, we are asking that all students bring their own fresh water to school in a sports water bottle each day.

Uniform

In line with the Department for Education's (DfE) guidance, all students should wear full school uniform that meets the expectations set out in the academy's uniform policy.

Students in Year 7 will be provided with their new uniform on 3 September 2020.

On 3 September 2020 students in Year 7 should wear plain black or grey trousers/skirt with a plain white shirt and their school shoes for their first day at Weavers Academy.

All students will access specialist teaching including PE. However, students will not be able to change into and out of their PE kit at school in line with control measures resulting from the school's C-19 RA. Students must come to school wearing their full PE kit and trainers on days when they have PE on their timetable.

The uniform regulations, including for PE kit can be found on the school's website at the link below:

www.weaversacademy.org.uk/home/weavers/uniform

Students are permitted to wear a plain black T-shirt or sweatshirt (but not a hoody please), as an alternative to their PE top if they have PE on their timetable on two consecutive days. This is a temporary amendment to the uniform regulations for PE kit.



If you need to talk to a member of school staff about any specific issues to do with uniform (including PE kit), please contact Mr Griffiths (Years 9-11) or Mrs Noakes (Years 7-8) at:

year9-11uniform@weaversacademy.org.uk

year7-8uniform@weaversacademy.org.uk

Specialist lessons

Lessons held in specialist spaces (for example, PE and music) will have clear guidance about the use of the space and equipment. This will be shared with students prior to the start of each lesson.

Face Covering

You may be aware that the DfE has now advised that secondary school children should wear face coverings in areas of local lockdown where infection rates are high, or where the Principal decides that this is the safest method of operating. This guidance is based on the following scientific evidence as offered by the DfE:

Coronavirus (COVID-19) usually spreads by droplets from coughs, sneezes and speaking. These droplets can also be picked up from surfaces, if you touch a surface and then your face without washing your hands first. This is why social distancing, regular hand hygiene, and covering coughs and sneezes is so important in controlling the spread of the virus.

The best available scientific evidence is that, when used correctly, wearing a face covering may reduce the spread of coronavirus droplets in certain circumstances, helping to protect others.

This guidance (<https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/face-coverings-in-education>) is specific to communal areas in schools such as corridors and spaces where it is difficult to maintain social distancing. Classrooms have been configured to allow us to achieve an appropriate distance between children, so face coverings will not be required during lesson time.

On the basis of this guidance, we have made the decision to require the use of face coverings for all staff and students when moving around, such as in corridors and in communal areas, and request that you ensure your child/children have plain or appropriately patterned face coverings to bring to school, as well as a plastic, sealable bag to keep them in when not in use.

We will make sure that all children know how to apply and remove their face coverings safely, and ask that you reinforce these messages at home using the government guidance found here:



<https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/face-coverings-when-to-wear-one-and-how-to-make-your-own/face-coverings-when-to-wear-one-and-how-to-make-your-own>

If you believe that your child/children should be exempt from wearing a face covering due to a disability or other concern please inform me at:

vivien.swaida@weaversacademy.org.uk

If you will have difficulty providing a face covering for your child/children, please inform me as soon as possible using the email address above.

To maintain high standards of behaviour around the academy, we will expect the following in regard to face coverings:

- Face coverings must be plain or appropriately patterned and not display words, slogans (including sports slogans), or graphics that could potentially undermine the school's values and ethos or/and cause offence or upset to others;
- Students are expected to observe the safe and appropriate application and removal of face coverings once this has been explained to them;
- If students are using their face coverings in a disruptive manner, this will be considered disruptive behaviour, and dealt with in accordance with the school's behaviour protocols;
- Students must never share face coverings;
- Tampering with another student's face covering would be classed as a significant health and safety breach and will be dealt with accordingly.

If you have any questions or concerns regarding the information above, please contact me using my school email address above.

Catching up on lost learning

Teachers will be using the first few days and weeks to take time to assess learning and to establish any gaps in subject content and/or relatively weaker subject skills. This information will be utilised to create and implement plans to ensure that students are not disadvantaged by the recent school closure.

The school is considering its approach to parents' evenings and other events and will communicate with you in due course as to how we will facilitate these conversations about learning moving forward.

Emotional well-being

The school recognises that the last few months have been a very difficult and upsetting time for many students and their families. For this reason, the school has continued to provide counselling and mentoring support to students in need throughout the pandemic.



Whilst the large majority of students will be supported by the structure and routine of attending school once again, school staff will take time to talk to students about their experience and to make sure that those who need it have access to additional support as appropriate.

What you can do to support the school: summary

- Where possible, please arrange for your child/ren to walk or cycle to school;
- Provide a face covering(s) to your child/ren for use on public transport where applicable and for moving around the academy and communal spaces.
- Provide your child/ren with a plastic, sealable bag for use with face covering(s) where appropriate to do so;
- Go through the ppt. with your child/ren to ensure that they understand the control measures and their part in adhering to them;
- Emphasise the importance of remaining in the 'bubble zone' and allocated social space to your child/ren in order to reduce the number of social interactions across 'bubbles' as this is an important preventative measure;
- Remind your child/ren about the importance of social distancing on the way to and from school;
- Remind your child/ren about the specific gate that they should use for entry and exit to the school site;
- Remind your child/ren to check that they have their own equipment each day;
- Ensure that your child/ren wears the correct uniform that adheres to the academy's uniform policy, including the temporary adjustments to the wearing of PE kit to and from school;
- Avoid arriving at school too early. Please arrange for your child/ren to arrive no earlier than 5 minutes before their allocated start time;
- Follow the guidance set out in this letter about siblings where arrival and finish times may be different;
- If arriving by car, please avoid overcrowding at the academy's gates. Please arrange to drop-off and pick-up well away from the school gates;
- Provide your child/ren with fresh water to drink in a sports water bottle as shared water fountains and jugs of water will not be available for use in the canteen.

Conclusion

We recognise that for some families, returning to school may seem like a daunting prospect.



Please be assured that we have followed the Government's guidance to ensure the health, safety and well-being of all students and staff and over the summer, we have also continued to respond to Government updates and we will of course continue to do so. Please be assured that the school is also following guidance from Public Health England and Public Health Northamptonshire.

The school's C-19 RA will be available on our school website from 31 August should you wish to review it.

Thank you all in advance for your continued support.

If you have any queries in the meantime please do not hesitate to contact me at:

vivien.swaida@weaversacademy.org.uk

I am really looking forward to seeing the students soon!

Yours sincerely

Vivien Swaida
Principal