



Atlantic Academy Portland

an Aspirations Academy

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Dear Parent/Carer

Re: Reopening Plan for Secondary Students September 2020

After 14 weeks of virtual school we are delighted that we will be able to welcome all students back to Atlantic on 7th September 2020. All staff have been working hard to implement plans that will ensure we keep all students, staff and the Portland Community as safe as we can when we open our doors to the wider community. I am writing to share our current plans and thinking in line with government guidelines. Moving forward, we will review the impact on the students' learning and safety and adjust our plans accordingly when the time is right.

Attendance expectations

In March, when the coronavirus (COVID-19) outbreak was increasing, we made it clear that no parent would be penalised or sanctioned for their child's non-attendance at school. Now the circumstances have changed and we have done everything within our power to minimise the risk to your child. Therefore, it is vital for all children to return to school to minimise, as far as possible, the longer-term impact of the pandemic on children's education, wellbeing and wider development.

Missing out on more time in the classroom risks students falling further behind. Those with higher overall absence tend to achieve less well in both primary and secondary school. **School attendance will therefore be mandatory again from the beginning of the Autumn Term.** This means from that point, the usual rules on school attendance will apply.

Entrance

From September, all Secondary students will use the community entrance by the sports hall. Our school reception will be moving to this area. If parents need to come into the academy there will be an intercom at the back gate to contact reception. Students will arrive at the new entrance gate. A member of SLT will be at the gate to welcome students every day and staggered timings will reduce contact at peak times.



Staggered Start/End Timings of the day:

For Year 7, 8 and 9 students, the school day will be from 8:30am until 2:45pm. Detentions will run from 2:45pm until 3:15pm.

For Year 10 and 11 students, the school day will be from 8:45am until 3:00pm. Detentions will run from 3:00pm until 3:30pm.

Uniform

Students are to be in full school uniform in line with the [Uniform Policy](#) (jumpers optional until half term and then compulsory). Please ensure all hair styles are appropriate and are natural hair colours. Also, please remember that nose studs are not part of our uniform policy; removal of nose studs en route or on site presents an increased risk of spreading the virus.

We have decided to trial the idea that on days that students have PE or Dance, they need to come into school wearing their **PE kit with their blazer** over top; they will remain in their PE kit for the duration of the day. We will review this during the first two weeks. If Year 11 Dance students are wearing leggings, they must be plain and not branded. Again, a gentle reminder that **hoodies are not part** of our uniform policy. However, students can wear a PE sweatshirt which needs to be a black, plain, long sleeved, full zip fleece/jumper which can be purchased from any retailer. Alternatively, you may wish to purchase a logoed sweatshirt from [Brigade](#).

Bubbles and Zones

Government guidance states that **whatever the size of the group, students should be kept apart from other groups where possible** and older children should be encouraged to keep their distance within groups.

Additionally, **staff can work across different groups in order to deliver the school timetable**, but they should keep their distance from students and other staff as much as they can (ideally 2 metres apart).

Therefore, we have decided to use the following 'Zone' model:

- Students have been allocated a Zone for each year group

Year	Zone
Year 7	ATL and Assessment area
Year 8	Maths classrooms
Year 9	English classrooms
Year 10	History & Philosophy and Ethics classrooms
Year 11	Geography and Modern Foreign Languages classrooms

- Students cannot wander around the building as this will undermine all the safety measures that have been put in place.
- There are enough rooms in each area to allow for all students to be taught in either their tutor groups, sets or options groups.
- Students will arrive straight to line up and will be escorted by their teacher to their tutor or first lesson
 - KS3 to tutor room at 8:30am
 - KS4 to period 1 at 8:45am
- Students can move class within a year group bubble to support set changes/option choices - this will be done at the end of lesson before a teacher moves.
- KS3 and KS4 students will not share the same space at any point during the day as students will also be allocated an outdoor and indoor area for break and lunch times.

- Changing rooms will not be in use and, therefore, we have asked students to come in the correct PE kit with a blazer on days they have PE. Uniform expectations will still apply and parents will be contacted if their child is not dressed correctly.
- To encourage hygiene practices, year groups will have their own toilet areas within their zones.
- We will continue to monitor and evaluate before we start to open up other areas in the school. Year 11 will then have priority to access these spaces to ensure all practical elements of their course can be completed.

Reading, lineup and routines

The routines that we have instilled in our students over the past years have never been more important than they are now: they will be vital in ensuring the safety of both students and staff moving around the building and ensuring that no time is wasted in getting back to a broad and balanced curriculum.

Line up will allow students to move safely around the site to ensure that bubbles are maintained and students and staff remain safe. Silent reading during lesson transition will enable teachers to move between their lessons while students are using their time to enrich themselves. Having a full pencil case will make sure that students have the equipment they need for the day and are able to access their learning.

Equipment

Students must ensure they have their full pencil cases every day as equipment will not be able to be shared between students or borrowed from teachers. Please see our [equipment list](#). Students will be able to purchase any required pieces of equipment from school reception before or after school. Students must ensure they have a reading book with them every day as these will be used to support lesson transition.

Students with additional needs

We know school will look different when we return in September and some students will need additional support with this to ensure they are settled and feel safe. Our SEN department has been working hard and will be making contact with parents of students with additional needs who we feel need extra support with their transition back into school.

Enrichment

Unfortunately, for the first term we are unable to run enrichment groups after school, although we are hoping activities will be provided through the online platforms for those students who are looking for after school projects.

Food and Lunches

The kitchens will be providing a packed lunch service from September. Free School Meals students will receive a packed lunch during the afternoon break and there will be packed lunches for those who wish to purchase their lunch at school. There will be no food provided at the morning break and students will need to bring their own snacks if they wish to have something to eat at this time.

School Transport



[School transport is run by Dorset Council](#). We have shared our school opening plans with them and have asked them, where possible, to accommodate how we have to run our day. They will be in contact, through their social media channels, to provide additional information for any parents who use school transport.

As per all government guidelines, people have been asked to look at how they use public transport. We have ample bicycle storage at school that is available to use by any member of the school community - please do ensure that any bicycles left at school are locked away and safe. We would strongly advise students to walk or cycle to school if at all possible. Parents may want to consider using 'walking buses' (a supervised group of children being walked to, or from, school).

New Measures for responding to infection

The Government has provided clear guidance which we will follow.

If someone has symptoms

We will be provided with a small number of home testing kits we can give, to parents collecting a child with symptoms or staff with symptoms, if we think providing one will increase the likelihood of them getting tested.

We will ask parents and staff to inform their school immediately of the results of a test. We will not ask for evidence of negative test results or other medical evidence before welcoming back children.

If there's a confirmed case of coronavirus

If we become aware that someone has tested positive, we will contact our local health protection team. This team will also contact us if they become aware that someone has tested positive.

The team will carry out a rapid risk assessment to confirm who has been in close contact with the person when they were infectious and make sure they are asked to self-isolate.

Close contact means:

- Direct close contact - face-to-face contact with an infected person for any length of time, within 1 metre, including:
 - i. Being coughed on
 - ii. A face-to-face conversation, or
 - iii. Unprotected physical contact (skin-to-skin)
 - iv. Proximity contacts - extended close contact (within 1 to 2 metres for more than 15 minutes) with an infected person
- Travelling in a small car with an infected person.

Reviewing and adapting plans

As with all plans and guidance, things will be ever changing and we will be adapting to the situation as best as we can. Please do feedback on any questions or concerns through the [school contact page](#) and we will be happy to answer your questions where possible.

As ever, we appreciate the support our school community has provided during this time and we look forward to a smooth reopening in September.

I would like to thank parents/carers – and indeed our students – for their patience and understanding during this period of school closure. The suddenness of the school closure and its length have tested us all. I want to assure all those in our community that the academy will be doing its utmost to get our students back to the excellent levels of learning that students were demonstrating before the school closure whilst also keeping everyone as safe as possible.

Yours sincerely



Mrs L Bishop
Principal of Secondary