



Atlantic Academy Portland

an Aspirations Academy

Miss Heppell - Principal of Primary
Mrs Bishop - Principal of Secondary

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14th September 2020

Dear Parent and Carer

It was wonderful to see all our students back on site at Atlantic Academy last week and I hope that your child has enjoyed coming back to school. We want our students to feel safe coming back, and for you to feel confident as well and that you and they understand the systems we have in place are to keep our students and staff as safe as possible regarding coronavirus.

I would like to take a moment to thank each member of our school community – students, parents and carers and all colleagues – for the work that each of us has undertaken this week. It has been a week like no other but everyone is adapting quickly to the new measures and responding very positively. Our students deserve special praise for the amazing way that they have come back being ready to learn, looking smart and adapting to the new school day.

Attendance

We were really pleased that we were able to get 92% of our students into secondary last week - we would love it if we could get to 95% this week and I thank you for supporting this. We will continue to monitor the situation in and out of school and will adapt our plans over the next few weeks as we get further government guidance and feedback from students, staff and parents.

Self Isolating

While we are delighted that students have been back in school, it is critical that we remain vigilant regarding Covid 19. It is to be expected that various bugs, sniffles and sneezes will do the rounds after a protracted period out of school. Should you or your child develop any of the key symptoms associated with Covid 19, however, such as a high temperature, a new, continuous cough or a loss or change to your sense of smell or taste, you should keep your child at home, isolate as a household and book a test for them as soon as is possible. [Guidelines on when you should isolate can be found here.](#)

Guidance For Parents/Carers on Covid-19

The latest Government Guidance continues to state that it is very important that people with symptoms of Covid 19 or people with positive COVID-19 tests (and their household members) stay at home.

If your child, or any member of the household they live in, has any of the symptoms of Covid 19 you must not send them into school. Please telephone **01305 820262** or email atlanticoffice@atlantic-aspirations.org giving your child's name, tutor group and confirm the reason for the absence if they are away.

If a child develops symptoms of Covid 19 in school, they will be cared for in our Covid-19 isolation room. We will contact parents/carers to collect their child as soon as possible. Please ensure we have the correct details for you and you have signed the [the home school agreement form](#) to support this.

You should follow the Gov.uk guidance about what to do including arranging relevant testing. In line with the guidance, we will authorise the absence of any child with COVID-19 symptoms. Once you have received the COVID-19 test result, please inform the school immediately by telephone on **01305 820262**. If your child receives a negative test but is still feeling unwell, they should remain home until they are feeling well enough to attend.

Parents and Visitors on site

At the current time, we are not able to allow parents on site unless there is an emergency. If parents or friends and family are collecting children on foot, we kindly ask them to wait off site. However, if you wish to speak to a member of staff please use the correct contact form on our website :

- **Pastoral Contact** : [Pastoral Support Contact Form](#)
- **SEND enquiries**: [SEND Contact Form](#)
- **Safeguarding concerns** : [Safeguarding Contact form](#)

Or contact the Academy by phone to speak to a receptionist who can pass on your contact details to the relevant member of staff. **Tel : 01305 820 262**

Communications: Please remember that the first point of contact is always the Pastoral Lead; using the Pastoral Support [Contact Form](#) on the Academy website. Using this form means that we will aim to respond within 24 hours to your email.

Pastoral Leads:

- **Mrs Bullin : Year 7 / 8 & 9**
- **Mrs Bourke: Year 10 & 11**

Faculty Directors for 2020-21 are another form of contact if required:

- **Blue Faculty Ms Detterick**
- **Orange Faculty Miss Board**
- **Green Faculty Ms Winsborough**
- **Behaviour Faculty Mrs Hendrie**

Evening Events

We have had to reconsider how we deliver evening events this term. The majority of our after school and evening events bring together large numbers of staff, students and parents in one place and, as you are aware, we will not be able to go ahead with these at the current time. We will look for alternative ways to share important information. Events that were scheduled for this half term and are now cancelled are:

- **Open Evening:** This year it has not been possible, so we decided to film a virtual tour with some of our newly formed **student leadership team**. We also thought you may like to see it, if you haven't already, so please follow the [link](#) here. If you know anyone that is interested in coming to Atlantic in the next few years, we would really appreciate it if you could share this link with them to give them an idea of our amazing facilities and why students love learning at Atlantic.
- **Meet the Tutor - Year 7:** This will be done via tutor phone calls during this half term.
- **Year 11 Information Evening:** This was meant to be Thursday 17th but we have decided to postpone this until we know more about what the year ahead will look like in regards to exam information. We will then send out a powerpoint instead of holding an evening event.
- **Parents Evenings:** We will update you nearer the time on how we will deliver these.

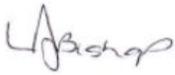
Feedback to students

We regularly receive guidance from the Department for Education on the safety of receiving work from students, reading it, providing feedback and then giving it back. Scientific guidance seems to differ on the length of time that Covid-19 can live on various surfaces. In order that we can keep everyone safe, teachers will not be signing each page for the foreseeable future to limit contact with books. In the vast majority of cases, therefore, students' books will be kept in school between lessons. Teachers cannot take the books home. This does provide more of a challenge in marking work, especially as our staff are not staying in their own classroom this term, but instead are moving to where the students are based. During this period of time, the majority of feedback will take place in the following ways:

- Whole Class feedback: This is when the teacher reads the work of all of the students and then shares one common feedback sheet with them, highlighting the main strengths and areas for improvement.
- Verbal feedback.
- Live Feedback: This is feedback that occurs during the lesson.

Thank you for your continued support! It means a huge amount to know that you are with us as we strive to provide outstanding opportunities for all of our young people. I would like to take a final moment to wish all of our families the very best for the year ahead and to wish each of our students a successful and safe start to 2020-2021.

Yours faithfully



Mrs L Bishop
Principal of Secondary