



2nd September 2020

Dear Parent/Carer

Re: Reopening Plan for Secondary Students September 2020

We are really excited that we will be able to welcome all of our students back to Atlantic on **Monday 7th September** 2020. Our staff have been working hard to implement plans which will ensure that we keep all students, staff and the Portland Community as safe as we can. I am writing to reshare our current plans and thinking in line with government guidelines and updates. As ever, we will review the impact on the students' learning and safety and adjust our plans accordingly as the term progresses.

If you need a reminder of my letter sent in July 2020 outlining our reopening plans, please [click the link here](#). There are a few additions/ reassurances we have made following the government update on Friday 28th August 2020.

Face Masks for Year 7-11

As a trust, we have decided that **a plain mask should be taken, and worn when appropriate in shops on public transport, etc, on the way to and from school.** In school, **we recommend** that students **do not wear** masks but they **keep them in a sealable plastic bag** (such as a freezer/food bag).

To summarise my previous communication on our reopening plans and in order to clarify any concerns, I have compiled a list of frequently asked questions (FAQs) and **our current response** below.

1. Will my child need to bring in a packed lunch?

Yes, unless they are free school meals (FSM) as lunches will be provided for them.

2. Will there be an opportunity to buy a packed lunch?

Yes. Also, we are looking at a system to enable online preordering.

3. Will there be hot food available to buy?

Unfortunately, no, not currently. We will, however, continue to monitor the situation.

4. Will there be food available to purchase at break time?

No. Students are encouraged to bring their own healthy snacks.

5. Will I need to wear a mask in school?

Not at the moment, only to and from school on public transport, or if going into shops.



6. Will I be expected to bring a mask into school?

Yes. Your mask needs to be kept in a sealed plastic bag to support travel to and from school, going into shops and if our advice needs to change.

7. Can I wear a mask if I am feeling anxious?

Yes.

8. What type of mask can I wear?

A plain reusable or disposable mask.

9. What if the bus is late - will I get a detention?

We will treat all cases of lateness on an individual basis.

10. If I have issues about the uniform supplier what do I do?

Contact the school using the link [here](#) or on our website.

11. What time does my child need to be at school and what time do they finish?

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

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

12. What are the uniform expectations?

Normal school uniform expectations apply ([see uniform policy](#)). However, on the days your child has PE they will be expected to be in Academy PE uniform and blazer.

13. Will my child have PE on the first day back?

There will be no secondary practical PE lessons on Monday 7th September in order to allow students to be given their timetables and plan accordingly.

14. Why is the reopening plan different to other academies in the trust?

Each academy has a different context with different issues and solutions to ensure the safety of the students and staff within their care.

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 is, therefore, mandatory from Monday 7th September.** This means that the usual expectations on school attendance will apply from Monday 7th September.

Students and families who are anxious about the return to school

We do understand that there will be some students, parents and households who may be reluctant or anxious about returning. We ask that you [contact us](#) to go through the plans to ensure the right support is in place to address concerns relating to personal circumstances.

Returning Academy equipment

Back in March, when we moved to our virtual school, we loaned over 200 Chromebooks to students across the

Academy. We were proud to be in a position where we could support so many students and this action ensured we saw some of the highest online participation engagement figures across the local schools in Dorset. If you were a family who borrowed a Chromebook, please can you ensure they are returned to the Academy to your **child's tutor** on **Monday 7th September**. If there have been any issues with the Chromebook that have occurred over the lockdown, please let us know with a note, stating the chromebook number, on the 7th September so we can update our records; all chromebooks are numbered and signed out against each student who has borrowed one. This will allow us to fix, clean and reissue the Chromebooks, enabling students to use them through the school day.

Home School Agreement September 2020: In addition to the current Atlantic Academy [Home-School Agreement](#) that all students and families agree to when they start at Atlantic Academy, we have enhanced our agreement and ask that all parents read and sign this prior to students returning to school. [The form can be found here.](#) **Please read the agreement carefully and submit a form for each child before they start on Monday 7th September.**

As ever, we appreciate the support our school community has provided during this time and we look forward to welcoming all our students back on Monday 7th September.

I want to reassure all those in our community that Atlantic Academy will continue to provide an excellent education for all of our students back whilst also keeping everyone as safe as possible.

Yours sincerely



Mrs L Bishop
Principal of Secondary