



Atlantic Academy Portland

an Aspirations Academy

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7th September 2021

Dear Parents, Carers and Students

I hope you all had a wonderful summer holiday. We are very much looking forward to welcoming students back to school this week as we begin the academic year. At this point I want to take the opportunity to share with you some of the details of our plans for the year ahead in light of the current COVID-19 situation. Our plans incorporate the flexibility to allow us to manage any outbreaks rapidly but we are also working hard to maintain as much normality as possible.

Our planning has taken full account of the guidance published by the Department for Education – [Schools COVID-19 operational guidance](#). The guidance recognises that schools need to apply these guidelines to their own particular context.

Please find brief details of our plans below. As you know, we will have spent time with students in the first few days helping to settle them in and ensuring that they know and understand what is expected of them.

Testing

All students will have been offered two lateral flow tests by the end of this first week of returning to school. We have done everything we can to limit disruption to lessons in the first week and then, once we have all reset, we can move back to home testing. All students will be asked to test at home twice weekly and the Government will review this at the end of September. Further details will be communicated to you in due course.

Self-Isolation

From the 16th August, the legal requirement to self-isolate after close contact **ended** for everyone aged **under 18** and for **adults** who have been **fully vaccinated**. This means that from September, only those who show symptoms and await test results, or those who test positive, will be required to self-isolate. Please could you continue to report any positive cases through the [contact form on the Academy website](#). NHS test and trace will carry out contact tracing in all education settings. Up to now, this has been done by the school with assistance from Public Health England.

Attendance

School attendance is compulsory for all students. However, it is **essential** that any student who is displaying any of the COVID-19 symptoms (new continuous cough or a high temperature, or a change/loss of taste or smell), or have tested positive in the last 10 days, does not attend school. If your child is not experiencing symptoms but has tested positive for COVID-19, they must self-isolate for at least 10 days, starting from the day the test was taken. Please ensure that you inform the school of the details of any absence as soon as possible.

Remote learning

We are very hopeful that **face-to-face** learning remains in place for the whole of the academic year ahead. However, we recognise that there are likely to be times when some students need to isolate at home but are well enough to do their school work. Work will be set on **Google classroom** in this circumstance so that students can access their learning at home. Students who are new to the school will be guided how to access this remote provision early in September.

Ventilation

We will be maximising ventilation of occupied spaces and will do what we can to ensure good air flow whilst being mindful of thermal comfort in lessons. We will continue to review our approach as the autumn progresses and the weather deteriorates.

Face coverings

Currently there is no longer any requirement for students or staff to wear face coverings in school. Please note that there is an expectation that students will wear face coverings on public transport or dedicated school transport. This also includes use of the school minibus.

School uniform and PE lessons

Students will be expected to attend school in full school uniform every day. Students will continue the routine for wearing PE Kit all day for the days they have PE. Please refer to the SIMs app to access student timetables.

Enrichment

We are thrilled to announce that now restrictions have eased we are once again able to offer our full Enrichment Program. Our enrichment program offers students the chance to try new and varied activities, to build confidence, resilience and curiosity.

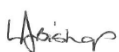
To take advantage of this fantastic opportunity please complete the attached form with your child and return by **Thursday 9th September** to secure a place on one or more of our enrichment activities.

[Autumn Term Enrichment Program](#)**Open Evening : Thursday 9th September**

We are really excited to be able to welcome the community back into the academy and Open evening is a great opportunity to do this. I would like to invite current and new students and their families into our Academy to see our fantastic facilities and learn more about life as a student through guided tours, meeting our staff and a brief presentation from myself. Please encourage a friend to come along especially if they are currently in Year 5 or 6 and thinking about where they would like to go for secondary education (Please see the flyer attached at the bottom of this letter).

We look forward to welcoming students back to school and to a very positive year ahead. We are preparing for normality wherever possible but have contingency plans in place should the need arise. We aim to minimise the need to move to our contingency plans - to achieve this aim, we will need to work together as a whole school community. I welcome your support with this and look forward to meeting you all through the year ahead.

Yours sincerely



Mrs Lesley Bishop Principal of Secondary



**Secondary Open Evening
for Prospective Year 7s
Thursday 9th September**

All Students Welcome



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