



The Gainsborough
Academy
'High Expectations'

3 July 2020

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Dear Parent / Carer

On the 8th June 2020 the government announced that they were “working towards bringing **all** children back to school in September”. Consequently, it is of the utmost importance for us to explain what we are doing in school with regards to the Coronavirus COVID-19.

At Wickersley Partnership Trust we will aim to implement the government strategy to the best of our ability whilst adapting it to the needs of the school community (pupils, parents and staff). Whilst we understand this is a very worrying time for everybody, we will continue to follow government and scientific advice and guidance when making decisions. However, in this unprecedented time, as with all decisions we have made, the safety and well-being of our community are our first priority. You have my word that we will keep our plans under constant review and always act with in the best interests of students and their families.

We aim to get students into school as quickly as possible however it is critical that we continue to respond to Government and scientific advice. Our current plan is to gradually phase students back into school, to ensure that all year groups get the appropriate provision and support needed to have a positive start to the new school year.

Students will be in year group bubbles and will be following as close to their normal timetables as possible, with some amendments to contact sessions such as Performing Arts and Physical education. We will not be having any large group assemblies over this period and will be staggering the day to ensure bubbles remain as separate from each other as possible.

We have planned a phased return to allow a safe and organised return to our full capacity therefore September will return as follows:

Step 1: Wednesday 2nd September, School will reopen to our New Year 7 and Year 11 cohorts

Step 2: Monday 7th September, School will be open to Year 7 and Year 11 **and** re-open to Year 10

Step 3: Wednesday 9th September, School will be open to Year 7, 10 and 11 and will reopen to Year 8

Step 4: Monday 14th September, School will be open to Year 7,8,10 and 11 **and** will re-open to Year 9

Where students are not expected in school we expect your child to have the following specific platforms of work:

1. Google drive specific to each year group including specific faculty folders. Within these can be found lesson resources and banks of work for them to complete
2. Google classrooms for each year group with more specific tasks for them to follow and links to online platforms
3. Online platforms including SAM learning, Hegarty Maths and Google classroom
4. Recorded lessons uploaded to Google Classroom by teaching staff
5. We will continue to provide paper copies as requested for those who have no access to devices.

I will write to each year group again shortly to clarify the specific arrangements with the staggered timings of the school day and our expectations before the end of the summer holiday. In the meantime, can I please ask that you proceed as you normally would with your preparations for returning to school e.g. purchasing uniform, school bags, pencil case and stationery. Thank you in advance for your support.

Each school has a COVID-19 risk assessment which includes a number of measures to mitigate risk to both our students and staff. We will adopt a phased approach so that we can monitor the situation, review and respond accordingly.

In order to reduce the spread of any infection, students are also being given guidance by staff about good hygiene, which includes:

- Use of tissues to catch a cough or sneeze, then binning the tissue and washing hands.
- Washing hands frequently, particularly after using public transport, before leaving home, on arrival at school, after using the toilet, after breaks and sporting activities, before food preparation, before eating any food, before leaving school. Use an alcohol-based hand sanitiser if soap and water are not available. Avoid touching your eyes, nose, and mouth with unwashed hands.
- Avoid close contact with people who are unwell.

The Academy has increased significantly the frequency of cleaning around the schools ensuring that high traffic areas and touch surfaces are cleaned during the day more frequently. We have increased the amount of hand sanitisers around the school buildings and we have or are making provision for additional hand sanitiser to be available in dining areas. Our hand washing areas remain well stocked and we have talked to children about how to properly wash their hands, placing posters in key areas to remind us all to maintain good hygiene. If you are aware that your child has any allergies relating to an alcohol-based sanitiser, please ensure that you contact the school and let us know immediately.

School registers will be taken in line with statutory guidance and contact with home will be made as normal regarding student absence. There is no reason why your child should not continue to attend school as normal: good attendance is essential for your child's education.

To support the government's Track and Trace initiative we will shortly be sending out a google form via email/text requesting mobile phone numbers of students if they have them. These numbers will not be used for anything other than Track and Trace and will be held securely following GDPR guidance.

We will continue to monitor the situation closely and should we get any new advice from Public Health England, the Department for Education or Lincolnshire Local Authority, we will inform you immediately.

Please be aware that this is a fast evolving situation and we do not underestimate the anxieties that families are facing, we will continue to share any new information and advice specific to the school with you at the earliest opportunity.

I would like to take this opportunity to thank you for all your ongoing support at what we understand may be a concerning time for you.

Yours sincerely



Anna Leng
Principal