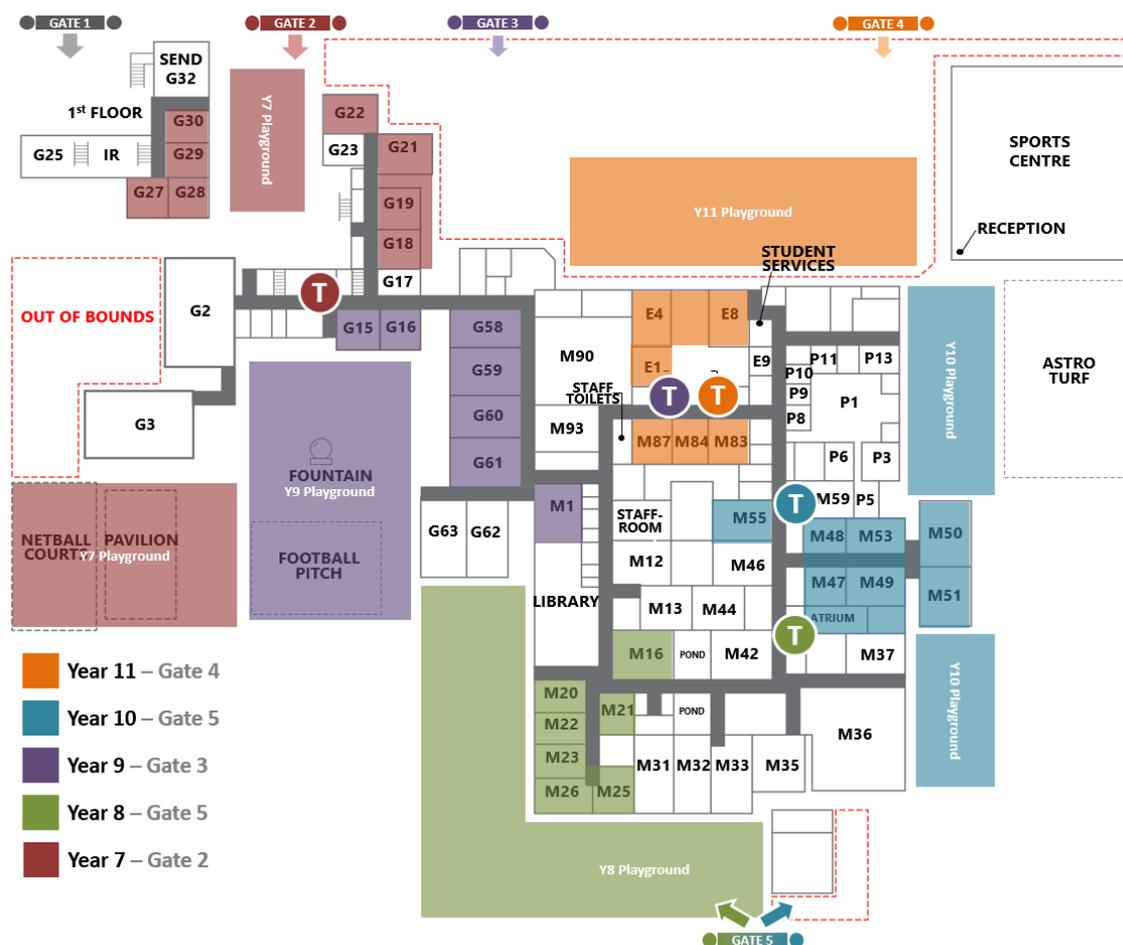


Friday 17 July 2020

Dear Parents/Carers

I wanted to write to you all at the end of what has been a very different few months for all of us and give you some of the information regarding the summer break and next term. You have already had the information regarding our staggered opening, sent last week. I understand that some may be concerned that we are not bringing all students in from day 1, but I'm sure that you can appreciate that what we are doing in terms of the organisation of the school will take some getting used to by the students. We want to ensure that all students are supported on their return and settled into their new zones. We are very much looking forward to welcoming our new Year 7 students to SBL also.

Next Friday, I will be sending out further information regarding the measures we are taking to follow the Government guidance regarding re-opening. It will be signed off by the Trust Board during the week, along with the appropriate risk assessments. As you can imagine, re-organising the whole operational structure of our school is quite a large and very complicated piece of work and I would like to thank my senior leadership team and staff from across the Academy who have helped with this process. In short, we have created Zones across the school which enable us to "bubble" each year group in their own area. More details will follow next week, but I have included below a draft copy of our site plan so that parents/carers and students can start to familiarise themselves with how the school will look, entry and exits etc. You will all have many questions regarding our reopening, but please wait until we have sent out the information next week before emailing in: there will be a dedicated email address for this which will link to a web-page that we can post FAQ's and answers to the main points. This will be looked at over the summer break and responses posted.



You will see from the map that the plan at the moment is to temporarily relocate our Reception to the Sports Centre. This will help us to create a protective bubble around the school to ensure we can limit the risk of infection from those outside our school. With that in mind, it is important to remember that we will not be accepting visitors on to site for meetings etc. All meetings for the first terms at least will be conducted remotely, as they have been for the last few months. Reception will be open for any items students may have forgotten to be dropped off, students to be picked up for medical appointments or when ill etc., but we will not be hosting meetings on site with parents/carers. I would ask that you please adhere to this and support us to keep the school environment safe and easier for us to manage. We will not be meeting with people that arrive at reception in the hope of getting to see a member of staff, we have to maintain the integrity of our bubbles as I'm sure you all appreciate.

Regarding our remote learning: I'd like to say a big "well done" to our students. Engagement and completion rates of the work set have been excellent and communication has been improving over the last few weeks to ensure we can support students where needed. However, I know that there will be some students who are worried or anxious about not having completed all the work. Please do not worry about this, you are not going to be placed in detention or Isolation, or as I said in the last assembly before we closed: sit in virtual isolation for 5 hours with Mr Knowles! As I told students before they left: if you don't complete the work, you will see a difference in terms of your ability and knowledge when you come back to lessons and you will have to work harder to catch up so that you can achieve your potential. My best advice would be to complete the summer work as detailed below in order to prepare for September and full-time school.

A decision has been made across Wellsway Multi Academy Trust for summer work to be optional as we know some students will welcome the opportunity to engage in subject work during the holiday, whereas other students and families will need a full break. As we enter this period with optimism for a return to school life and a sense of normality, I'm sure many of us will take this time to reflect on the challenges remote learning can present. Again I offer my sincerest thanks to all of you for your continued support to enable us to maintain and facilitate learning throughout this period.

A Google Classroom has been created for year groups 7-10, as we felt it would be sensible to have a 'one stop shop' for students to be able to access any summer work they may wish to complete. The post-16 team will upload optional summer work to the current Google Classrooms being used across their subjects as students are already in the routine of accessing their remote learning in this way.

All students in Years 7-10 have been invited into their year group classroom and will have received an invite through their school email account. They will simply need to accept this invitation. Students in Year 12 are already members of a Google Classroom for each of their subjects.

Although students in Years 7-10 have been invited to the new Google Classrooms we have set up, I have also listed the names and codes of the Google Classrooms for your information:

<b>Year Group Classroom Name:</b>	<b>Google Classroom Code:</b>
Year 7 Summer Work	<b>Oznwrwk</b>
Year 8 Summer Work	<b>Rpnacab</b>
Year 9 Summer Work	<b>e3kgjua</b>
Year 10 Summer Work	<b>Uzovddr</b>

Throughout this period of school closure, any hard copy work students have been given has been completed in an exercise book. I have been impressed by the number of additional exercise books that have been collected from school, as this is another example of how hard students have been working and how they have continued to engage in and complete their school work at home. We are keen to recognise the effort students have put into working remotely and I've no doubt the pride they have taken in their work. If they are able to, we would like students to bring their exercise books to school on the first day when they return to school. Tutors will have a box for them to place their books in (so that we can quarantine for 72 hours). Once the books have 'self-healed', we will have an opportunity to look at the work they have completed and reward students for the effort and pride they have taken whilst away from us. However, as I said earlier, students do not need to worry about getting into trouble about not completing all their activities: you can best prepare for September by doing some of the summer work.

We are looking forward to the two results days in August for our YR11 and Post-16 students to pick up their results. Mr White will be writing separately regarding the arrangements. We are all really pleased the majority of our YR11's will be joining us in our Post-16 provision and it will be fantastic to see them on results day. It has been a really difficult and uncertain time for them, made worse by the fact we can't do the normal end of year celebrations such as the assembly and the prom. We are looking to organise this for a more suitable time. I'd like to thank the YR11 students on behalf of all our staff and wish them well. Our YR13 students will be moving on to further education,

employment or apprenticeships and it will be great to catch up with them on results day. We all wish you the best of luck for the future.

As is the case every year, there will be some changes to Tutors. This information is being sent out separately. There are many reasons as to why a Tutor may change, but we always ensure that the tutor has time to spend getting to know their new students at the start of the year. We also have some staff that we have said our goodbyes to, albeit in a stranger way than normal due to us not being able to come together as a group. Miss Way and Mr Guilbert will be leaving us to take up teaching posts in China. I'd like to thank them for their contributions in ICT and maths respectively and wish them the best of luck for the future. Miss Way will be particularly missed for her contributions in dance and with our school performances where she has been an active member of staff. Mr Davda joined our Science team a year ago after teaching abroad. He has worked well with the team and I have appreciated the energy and engagement he brings to the Academy and his lessons. He will be leaving at the end of term to also return to teaching abroad and I'd like to thank him for his contribution. Miss Mullins has been working with us in Art this year whilst covering the maternity leave of Miss Scott-Morgan. I'd like to thank her for the excellent work she has done and wish her well for the future. Miss Scott-Morgan is looking forward to returning properly in September. We also have to say a brief goodbye to Mr Clompus who is going on a sabbatical for the next year. He has done an excellent job in re-building our Post-16 provision over the last two years and we are expecting a very large cohort to start with us in September. I'm very pleased that Ms Sharp has agreed to step into the role for the next year to continue to grow and improve our provision. I would also like to add a special "Thank you" here to Mrs Slocombe who has been our Curriculum Team leader for English for the last 8 years. She has done an outstanding job and improved not only the outcomes for students in English, but has developed a talented team of teachers who deliver an excellent learning experience for their classes. Mrs Slocombe has decided to step down from her role to enable her to spend more time doing what she loves: teaching. Mrs Slocombe has spent 29 years with the school and I am pleased to say that she will continue working as an English teacher in the Academy and help to prepare our students for their exams next year.

One of the benefits of the school becoming more popular in our community is that we are able to bring in new staff to further strengthen our team. We have expanded to 8 tutor groups in the new Year 7 and have tried where possible to reduce class sizes across the school. We have a number of staff joining us in September:

<b>NEW TEACHING STAFF</b>	<b>SUBJECT</b>
Miss Willington	Science/IT
Dr Condon	Curriculum Team Leader for English
Mr Parkhouse	Geography
Miss Tyler	Maths
Mrs Ward	Curriculum Team Leader for Hums
Ms Morgan	Maths
Mrs Radford-Cole	Curriculum Team Leader for Science
Miss Cox	Science

As I said earlier, please look out for the information next week regarding the arrangements for re-opening in September. I hope all our community have a good summer break and our students come back refreshed and energised for the year ahead. Please be assured that we are trying to make their return as easy and stress-free as possible whilst planning for the safety of all.

Additionally, there will be many families that have struggled financially over the period of lockdown. We are looking to support as best we can, but there may be a way in which our school community can support each other with uniform. If you would like to donate any school uniform that no longer fits your child please bring it to main reception on either the 2<sup>nd</sup> or 3<sup>rd</sup> of September. We can use this spare uniform to support families during these challenging times. Please ensure it has been recently washed as per the care instruction on the labels and it is in a plastic bag that has been tied closed. Blazers, trousers, skirts and ties only please.

Thank you for your continued support through what has been a difficult time for all and we are really looking forward to seeing our students in September.

Yours faithfully

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'D Anderson', with a long horizontal line extending to the right.

**D Anderson**  
**Principal**