

27 August 2020

Dear Parents/Carers

Welcome back

We are looking forward to welcoming our students back to school and are excited to see them. I would like to extend a special welcome to those children and families who are joining us for the first time. The arrangements that will be in place at Sir Bernard Lovell Academy to welcome all children and young people back to school full time in September are the same as those we shared with you at the start of the holiday and are attached for your information. I would also remind you that the full Risk Assessment can be viewed on the trust website at www.wellswaymat.com. We would also like to share this leaflet, produced by the government for parents, which can be viewed [here](#) and would encourage you to visit www.gov.uk/backtoschool for information and practical guidance to help you plan for your son/daughter's return to school.

The situation regarding the wearing of face coverings has changed however and new advice has been issued to schools by the government. The general advice is still that the government is not recommending face coverings are necessary in schools generally because measures are in place to minimise risks and they have the potential to impact negatively on learning. However, the latest guidance published on August 26th gives secondary schools the discretion to require face coverings to be worn in communal areas if they believe that is right in their particular circumstances. We do not believe this to be necessary in our school but we will keep the situation under review and let you know immediately should we consider it necessary to bring this in. It is still the case that children and young people over the age of 11 are required to wear a face covering on public or school transport. We do recognise however that some students will feel more comfortable wearing a face mask in the corridor or classroom and we are happy for them to do so. Please note that masks must be plain in appearance, no logos or motifs and must be worn appropriately and sensibly. Any student intentionally misusing a mask will be required to take it off.

We do appreciate that many students and families will be anxious about the return to school. This is entirely understandable and we will do what we can to ensure that students have a positive start to the new school year. The planned induction sessions will help them to feel confident about the new routines and expectations that we have put in place for their safety. We also know that some young people will have had a difficult time during the lockdown and we want to understand these circumstances so we can provide particular support for them. You should have received a questionnaire during the holiday that was sent to all parents/carers. It is designed to help us to assess each individual student's needs so we can provide whatever support he or she may require. I am re-sending the [link](#) and would urge you to fill in the questionnaire if you haven't done so already. We will use the responses to help us support each student's emotional needs as this will be an essential part of helping them to get back into learning.

The awarding of exam grades has been very tricky this summer but we are pleased to report that Sir Bernard Lovell Academy alongside all our trust's secondary schools, has done very well and in line with expectations. Our teachers approached the task of determining the Centre Assessed Grades, submitted to the exam boards, with integrity and professionalism and these grades were moderated across the trust to ensure accuracy. It was a very stressful time for students and we would like to pay tribute to their resilience in the face of what was an unprecedented and challenging situation. The results reflect the hard work of the students and their teachers and we are delighted with the outcomes. You can read more about the results in this [blog piece](#). We are looking forward to welcoming a record number of young people back into our Sixth Form to continue their studies and are still recruiting for our post 16 courses.

We are all feeling a range of emotions as the start of the new school year approaches: excitement about being back, tinged with some anxiety. We are confident in our plans however, which worked well with Year 10 during term 6 last year, and we absolutely know it is the right course of action to get all children and young people back into school. We look forward to welcoming your son/daughter back to school and to being together once again as a school community.

Yours faithfully,



Mr D Anderson
Principal



Andrea Arlidge
Chief Executive