



Dear Parent/Carer,

Preparing for September

I trust that, like me, you are looking forward to all students returning to the academy full-time in September. I would like to pay tribute to the huge efforts of parents and teachers alike in keeping our children learning during the school closure period. However, despite our best efforts at home education and remote learning, there really is no substitute for students being in school, sitting in class and learning from subject specialist teachers. When we return in September, we will be resolutely focused on ensuring that all students catch up on the learning that they have missed, so that their education and life chances are not adversely affected by recent events.

Every new academic year brings with it some changes to policy and practice. This year, we will need to make some additional adaptations in light of the coronavirus. To give your child the best possible start to the new academic year, please read the following information carefully and in its entirety.

Precautions to ensure a safe return

The academy is committed to ensuring the safe return of all students in September and will be fully compliant with guidance released by the Department for Education. To put your mind at ease, please find below the details of some of measures that we will be taking to ensure a 'Covid secure' environment.

- Staff and students will receive a comprehensive induction about procedures and expectations. The start of term is being staggered in order to facilitate this.
- Students will be placed into year group 'bubbles' and will have no more than transitory, passing contact with students from other year groups. Each year group will be taught in designated year group zones for the majority of lessons.
- The arrival and dismissal of students will be staggered. Upon arrival at school, students will line up in the playground in their tutor groups and be escorted into the building by their teachers.
- Breaktime and lunchtime will be staggered. Each year group will have an allocated zone in the playground. There will be no canteen service at break time. At lunchtime, students will be rotated through the canteen in their year groups and will be directed where to sit by a member of staff.
- Students will have regular opportunities throughout the day to wash and/or sanitise their hands. Hand sanitiser will be available throughout the building.
- An enhanced cleaning schedule will be in place to ensure that canteen tables, toilets, classrooms and subject specialist equipment are cleaned between use by different year groups.
- Public Health England does not (based on current evidence) recommend the use of face coverings in schools. They are not required in schools as pupils and staff are mixing in consistent groups, and because misuse may inadvertently increase the risk of transmission. There may also be negative effects on communication and thus education. Face coverings are required at all times on public transport. Upon arrival at the academy, students will be asked to remove their face covering (although this will not be mandated). This guidance will be kept under review and we will be updated in line with any government policy announcements.

Staggered start to term

To ensure that we can fully re-induct all students back into our ethos, expectations and routines, we will be staggering the dates on which students return. On their first day back, students will spend the day with their tutor, re-acclimatising to academy life and preparing them for learning in the months ahead. Students will return on the following dates:

Date	Students in school
Friday 4 th Septmeber	Year 7 only
Monday 7 th September	Year 7, Year 9 and Year 11 only
Tuesday 8 th September	Year 8, Year 10 and the Sixth Form only (NB. Year 7, Year 9 and Year 11 will <u>NOT</u> be in school on this day)
Wednesday 9 th September onwards	All students

Staggered timings of the day

In line with guidance from the Department for Education, the academy will be temporarily adjusting the timings of the day to stagger the arrival and dismissal of students. Students should arrive at school at the following times:

Year Groups	Arrival at school
Year 7, Year 8, and Year 11	Arrive from 08:00 onwards, to be lined up in the playground by 08:25 for a prompt 08:30 start.
Year 9, Year 10 and the Sixth Form	Arrive from 08:30 onwards, to be lined up in the playground by 08:55 for a prompt 09:00 start.

Lunchtime and the end of the day will also be staggered. Initially, Year 7, Year 8 and Year 11 will be dismissed at 15:00, whilst Year 9, Year 10 and the Sixth Form will be dismissed at 15:30. The Extended Day will not run for the first few weeks of term.

Tutor Time, previously called 'i-Space', will also be moving to a new slot in our daily schedule. Year 7, Year 8 and Year 11 will have Tutor Time at the start of every day. Year 9, Year 10 and the Sixth Form will initially have Tutor Time at the end of every day, to allow for staggered arrival and dismissal, but this will shift to the beginning of the day when that precaution can be relaxed.

More information about the timings of the day will be made available on the academy's website.

New website

The academy's new website will go live on Friday 21st August. With the new website comes a new web address, www.pimlico.futureacademies.org. The website will contain all the information that you need to know about the academy, including key announcements, academy policies and details of the September start. Please take time to acquaint yourself with the new website and to read the academy's new Behaviour Policy and revised Uniform and Equipment Policy.

Behaviour Policy

The academy is launching a new behaviour policy in September. It strikes an appropriate balance between praise and sanction and demands the highest standard of conduct from every student, every day, without excuse.

The behaviour policy is underpinned by our 'Pimlico Points' system, which will assume a renewed importance next year. Students will earn positive points for demonstrating outstanding learning, achievement and character. As students accrue more Pimlico Points, they will pass through various Reward Levels and have their achievements recognised through letters home, certificates, invitations to the Principal's Breakfast and trips. Students will earn negative points for displaying behaviour that detracts from learning or that runs counter to the academy's culture. If a student accrues negative points, they will move through the Behaviour Boundary system. This will trigger increasing levels of sanction, but it will also enable support to be put in place to help the student in improving their conduct.

For the avoidance of doubt, please note that the academy operates a system of same-day detentions. Parents will receive notification via text message if their child is to be detained, but the academy does not require parents' permission to do so. A copy of the new behaviour policy is enclosed with this letter and will also be available to download from the academy's website. Please take the time to acquaint yourself with it and to read through it with your child in advance of September.

Uniform and Equipment Policy

The academy is launching a revised uniform policy in September. It reflects the ambition that we have for our students and it must be followed meticulously by every student, every day, without excuse. Some of the more salient points to note are as follows:

- There is detailed guidance about the appropriate wearing of uniform.
- There is detailed guidance about approved school shoes.
- There is detailed guidance about hairstyle.
- No jewellery is permitted for students in Years 7 – 11. This includes earrings, studs, rings, bracelets and necklaces. The only exception to this is the wearing of a discrete watch with a plain strap. Smart watches are not allowed.
- No make-up, nail varnish or nail extensions are permitted for students in Years 7 – 11.

- A detailed list of banned items is provided. The rules on confiscation are applied without exception. Banned items will be confiscated, regardless of to whom they belong. Mobile phones will be confiscated for a fortnight in the first instance. All other confiscated items will be kept until the end of the half term.
- Head scarves, if worn, may only be navy blue or black.
- Winter coats must be plain navy blue or black, with only discrete logos.
- A list of compulsory equipment is provided.
- When a student is not dressed in the full uniform or does not have the expected appearance, they will not be permitted to attend lessons. In such cases, and if parents can be contacted and informed, students will be sent home to rectify the infringement and return, or alternatively will undertake supervised work within the Internal Exclusion room until the correct uniform is brought to them, or until they are of the expected appearance. When a student is missing a compulsory piece of equipment or an item of PE kit, this will sit a detention after school the same day.
- The uniform policy applies to all students whenever they are in school, travelling to and from school or otherwise representing the academy.

A copy of the Uniform and Equipment Policy is enclosed with this letter and will also be available to download from the academy's website. Please take time the time to read it in full, to explain it to your child and to ensure that they are fully equipped with all the equipment that they will need in September.

ParentPay

From September, the only method of paying for canteen food will be online through ParentPay. Students will not be able to 'top up' their accounts at school as the money-loading machines have been removed. To avoid unnecessary inconvenience or embarrassment, please ensure that you regularly monitor your child's ParentPay account and add additional funds in good time. We will be recirculating ParentPay log-in details before the start of term, along with a 'how to' guide. If you have any queries after receiving these, please contact Lisa Thompson at l.thompson@pimlicoacademy.org.

Sixth Form

Our sixth form provision is a real strength of the school and our sixth form students act as role models to younger students. Next year, we will be seeking to cultivate a deeper sense of scholarship, identity and collegiality in the sixth form. In support of this, we have completely renovated the sixth form area over the summer holidays. Our new Sixth Form Suite has a lobby area, a study room, a computer suite, and a common room equipped with kitchen facilities. We are also introducing a Sixth Form Dress Code. All sixth formers are expected to wear business dress accompanied by either our new sixth form tie or sixth form brooch. More information will be communicated to current and prospective sixth formers under separate cover.

Finally

I am incredibly excited about seeing all students return to the academy in September. Things may feel a little different at first, after such an extended period of school closure. However, I have every confidence that our students will 'step up to the mark' and that, together, we will be able to offer all the support that they need to succeed.

Yours faithfully,

Daniel Smith
Principal Designate

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