



28 August 2020

Dear Parents & Carers

Full reopening from Friday 4th September 2020

I am writing to you following yesterday's update from the secretary of state regarding the reopening of schools from September. This has been a very uncertain time for all families, pupils and staff and we hope that the reopening of our school will help bring some stability and reassurance to all of our young people.

Firstly, I would like to take this opportunity to thank you all for your support and understanding during the past six months. I am mindful that many of our young people and indeed staff have not been into school since March. Since then we have been working together in many new ways such as our online platforms, telephone calls and emails. I would like to thank all of you for the many messages of thanks and support that we have received during these past few months as our staff have continued to work to support your children both on site and through many home visits. At times it has been a worrying period for the school staff who also have families and loved ones to care for, but the fantastic support we have received has helped us through the past six months.

Yesterday the Secretary of State for Education provided an update on the measures for reopening schools. I am now pleased to be able to provide further information around our full school opening from September 2020. We are thrilled to be able to be welcoming our whole school community back to school from **Friday 4th September**. As per the letter we issued at the end of last term, Years 7, 11 and 12 will be welcomed back for an induction day on **Thursday 3rd September**.

As you will appreciate COVID continues to be at the forefront of everyone's minds and we must ensure we continue to follow all Government guidance in all areas of life for the safe and effective operation of schools. I and the wider leadership team have been working over the past few weeks to put plans into place for September following the latest Government guidance that has been issued around schools. The plans I am sharing with you are based on the current guidance; if any guidance does change then I will ensure this is communicated to you.

Year group 'bubbles'

From September we will be welcoming all pupils back to school in a phased way; we will still be operating 'social bubbles', however these 'social bubbles' will be much larger than we have currently been operating in school based on the new guidance. Each year group will form a 'bubble' within which they will remain throughout the school day. This means that no two year groups will mix during the school day.

To achieve this, we have allocated each year group the following;

- Each year group will have a separate start time as published in my letter from the end of term and copied into this communication
- Each year will also have a separate entry point to school
- Each year group has been allocated their own building or teaching block where they will receive all of their lessons.
- Lunch times will be staggered and two new dining locations have been created. This means that each year group will be able to have lunch and break without meeting any other year group.
- Movement around site will be kept to a minimum and where possible will take place via the outside of the buildings.

Following the guidance issued by the government yesterday we have taken the decision to make face masks optional for pupils and staff. We believe that this will support those who choose to wear face masks but will also help us move back to a sense of normality as quickly as possible.

We have created a range of documentation and advice around the full reopening which is available on our website and the Romero Multi Academy central website found here: <https://romeromac.com/resetandrecovery/>. Please ensure you take time to familiarise yourself and your son/daughter with this information. Senior leaders will be working to answer any questions or queries parents may have around full reopening and your son/daughter returning to school.

It is anticipated that getting pupils safely on site in the morning and offsite in the evening will take longer than usual and we ask all parents to support us with this. Our letter from the end of term (titled Start of Autumn Term 2020), provides information around new drop off and entry points for pupils. Please take time to read this and adhere to the guidance in order to support smooth running of school.

The curriculum in school from the first week of September will be focusing on pupils' emotional and physical wellbeing following the return to school after such a long period at home. We will however, quickly return to the delivery of the full curriculum for all year groups. Due to the need to separate year groups into separate teaching blocks, specialist lessons such as science, technology and art will be theory based until October half term.

Many of you will be aware that whilst bus routes in Coventry are run by a number of providers, it is predominantly delivered by National Express and De Courcy Travel.

Bus Transport

Unfortunately, on Monday 24th August, De Courcey Travel went into administration, and although a number of the routes have already been taken on by other providers there are further routes (including a number of the school routes) which have not. We are working closely with the Local Authority to find a solution to the transport problems that this may cause at the start of term.

The clear message from the Local Authority is that public transport network buses will have reduced capacity and therefore advice to students catching buses is to explore alternative options for getting to and from school where possible (e.g. walking, cycling), and if they are not able to do this to allow more time for the journey. It is also important that parents and students familiarise themselves with the requirements that need to be in place for public transport (social distancing, face masks).

A number of transport routes across the city are dedicated school routes. TfWM has confirmed these to be 6S, 8S, 52, 58, 58A, 59, 23S, 10S. The national guidance sets out that the social distancing guidelines do not need to be uniformly applied on dedicated school transport meaning that the capacity issues across public transport do not apply in the same way. The national guidance does ask that social distancing should be maximised between bubbles and recommends that where possible students sit within age groups and that face coverings are worn.

I appreciate upon reading this lengthy update letter you may have questions and queries which relate to your individual son/daughter's circumstances that you wish to discuss further; please do not hesitate to get in touch should you wish to arrange a telephone call or to ask any questions. Please email admin@cardinalwiseman.coventry.sch.uk.

I want to take this opportunity to further recognise the resilience and flexibility shown by all of our families, pupils and staff members during this extremely difficult time. We appreciate this has been and continues to be extremely difficult for everyone. Thank you all for your support and patience. We look forward to welcoming everyone back next week.

Yours faithfully



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Executive Principal