25th August 2020

Dear Parents/Carers

**Re: Return to School for all on Wednesday 2nd September 2020**

I just wanted to start by saying thank you. Thank you for your hard work over the lockdown period and for working with us at the academy to manage what has been an exceptionally difficult and worrying time. I know that we have all found it to be a challenge at times, but one of the really encouraging things to come out of this is that we feel we have never had better communication between the academy and our parents and carers, and we hope that this will remain and improve as we move forward together.

As you are aware there will be measures in place to make the academy a safe environment for your child. This will mean that the academy will be a little different to before. In brief, we will be making sure that we maintain good hand hygiene, keeping the pupils in their ‘bubble’, and keeping our distance where possible. Obviously, you can also help by making sure that if your child or anyone in your household has any of the key symptoms, that you isolate and get a test.

The other area that you may have concerns about is the dropping off and picking up of your child. You should seek to maintain a 2-metre distance from others were possible and you should feel free to wear a facemask if you wish to do so. You may need to wait a little longer with your child upon arrival to the academy, as the process also involves checking pupils’ temperatures. Phoenix Academy have introduced a one-way system when parents bring pupils to the academy. The pupils and parents will arrive at the normal entrance and will be met by a member of staff who will instruct them on the one-way system they need to follow i.e. Emerald Room or the main entrance. 2-metre spaces will be clearly marked out on the pedestrian area next to the main entrance and 2-metre rules enforced while you are waiting for staff to receive your child.

Pupils who attend using the transport service will continue to be collected and dropped off as normal. Any amendments to previous pick up and drop off times should have been provided to you by the Local Authority Transport Department. Pupils will be met by a member of staff upon their minibus arrival to the academy and again will have their temperature taken before entering the academy. They will then be taken by staff to their classroom following our one-way system.

I also want to make you aware that we are looking to create a Parent Liaison group that meets using TEAMS, which is an online group. This group is where parents can discuss concerns over the current pandemic and its effect on their child’s education as well as being able to get some school feedback on current changes. I see this as being something that can be useful for all of us, and can develop as you wish it to.

It will also be helpful with our Blended Learning agenda, this is basically upskilling the pupils so that they can learn from home using a laptop IF this is ever needed again due to action taken to minimise the spread of the virus. We cannot know if it will be needed but there are some useful IT skills involved in any case that your child will benefit from.

I am feeling very positive about the new Academic year and I am looking forward to helping the pupils reintegrate into the academy. All the staff at Phoenix Academy are committed to providing a supportive and safe environment for all and we will work to accelerate learning so that changes to our lives from Lockdown are not long-lasting.

Please stay safe and I look forward to the day that we can all sit safely together in our school hall and watch your child in their school play - I hope not too far in the future.

Kindest wishes

Miss E. Phillips

Interim Principal