

15<sup>th</sup> September 2020

Dear Parents and Carers,

Firstly, we hope that you and your families are safe and well. We would also like to thank you for helping us ensure we can open our academy fully to all students. Please be assured that our staff are committed to providing the best education possible for your child, while securing the health and safety of our whole community.

Our students have settled in really well to the new academy year and are quickly adapting to the new 'normal'. Full risk assessments are on our website and we are adhering closely to government guidelines. We will continue to follow guidance, review current procedures and amend as appropriate. We thank you for your continued support with this, as we work together to ensure we can continue to provide the best education for your children.

At the moment, government guidance states that face masks or coverings in communal areas, are not compulsory. However, we encourage all students and staff to wear an appropriate face mask or covering in communal areas, such as corridors, in order to ensure we are as safe as possible. We are also encouraging staff and students to regularly wash and hand sanitise their hands. Again, thank you for your support and communication with your children at home regarding public health guidelines.

We are all very proud of the way that our students have conducted themselves around the academy and in the community. Their approach has been mature and sensible, allowing for us to safeguard all stakeholders in the current climate. We have taken several steps to support this which appear to have worked very well; extending lessons into doubles of 1 hour and 55 minutes each, zoning of both indoor and outdoor spaces for different year groups, and lining students up at the end of social times to be escorted into the building safely.

As part of our Covid-19 risk assessment, students will be making a significantly greater use of outdoor spaces during break and lunchtimes. As such, we are asking that all students come to the academy with appropriate outdoor coats or umbrellas for use during the colder and wetter weather that will increase as we progress throughout the autumn term.

In order to facilitate social distancing both before and after school we are now opening all three gates to the school site; the main gate on Castle Drive, the side gate which opens up onto Pool Hayes Lane, and the PE gate which opens up at the rear of our site onto a footpath adjoining Pool Hayes Lane. Students can enter and exit the site through any of these three gates. This will support some of the other measures we already have in place including the staggered finish times at the end of the day for different year groups. Please refer to our website for a copy of the letter entitled 'Full Opening September' which we sent out in August containing the details of the finish times.

We politely request that parents and carers park considerately and legally when dropping off and picking up students from site. By doing so, we can help to ensure the safety of all students and members of the community along Pool Hayes Lane and Castle Drive at what are ordinarily very busy periods in the day for these locations.

Please note that our uniform policy has stayed the same as it was previously. Please refer to our uniform policy which can be found on the website for full details. A reminder that cropped trousers, boots and hoodies are not part of our uniform policy. Where a student wears clothing that is not in line with our uniform policy, they must address the issue immediately. Parents and carers will be contacted. Thank you for your support in helping us to maintain students high standards of uniform.

We have recently updated our SRE (Sex Relationships Education) policy, in line with changes to statutory requirements. All of our parents and carers will soon be emailed a link to the draft version of our policy which will be found on our website. Once received, all parents and carers will have the opportunity to provide any feedback. Thank you in advance for your contributions to this.

We do really value and appreciate our parents and carers support and input. If you would like to make more of an active contribution to academy life, we are currently recruiting for parent governors. Please email us at [office@poolhayes.attrust.org.uk](mailto:office@poolhayes.attrust.org.uk) for more information.

Finally, thank you for your support in these challenging times. Please remember to follow both the academy's and public health guidance to keep everyone learning safely.

Yours faithfully

P. J. Harris

P Harris  
Principal

