

Plympton Academy

Moorland Road, Plympton, Plymouth, PL7 2RS

Principal: Ms Lisa Boorman

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Ref: LBO/TOV

4th November 2020

Dear Parent/Carer

In light of the recent Government announcements regarding the introduction of a national lockdown, I am writing to you to outline some of the areas where there have been changes made to support staff and students at the Academy. These measures will be in place from **Thursday 5th November** and we will be supporting students to ensure these are adhered to.

Face coverings

We ask that students are provided with face coverings to wear whilst at the Academy, unless they are in their lessons, outside or eating. Please ensure your child is aware of the necessary conditions outlined by the government regarding the safe wearing and removal of face coverings. If your child is exempt from wearing a face covering please inform the Academy on enquiries@plympton.academy, providing a copy of confirmatory documentation.

Ventilation

In order to adhere to the guidelines with reference to keeping occupied spaces well ventilated, whilst in lessons students are permitted to wear a coat should they feel cold due to windows being open. However, we do require the correct uniform, including the blazers for the main uniform and the wet tops for the PE uniform days, to be worn under coats. Please ensure that they have a suitable coat to wear should they need to and that hoodies or other jumpers are not used as an alternative.

Self isolation

If your son or daughter has been identified as having close contact with another person at the Academy who has tested positive for Covid-19, a text message will be sent to you highlighting any risk and further communication will be provided identifying the necessary action. Please note that we follow guidance from Public Health England and the Department for Education when determining which students are deemed to have had "close contact" and therefore need to self-isolate. Lessons are provided using ClassCharts and Google Classrooms - please ensure your son or daughter has logged into the appropriate class on Google Classrooms.



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A further reminder that if your son or daughter comes into contact with someone who has tested positive outside of the Academy, they must isolate for 14 days, regardless of whether they receive a negative test themselves or not. Please inform the Academy of this absence.

Uniform

The expectation is that students wear the correct uniform during their day at the Academy. The main uniform consists of black trousers/Academy skirt, white shirt with collar, Academy tie, Academy blazer, plain black shoes/trainers. Plain white T-shirts can be worn under the shirt to support comfort and warmth during the winter. There is also the Academy v-neck jumper available from our suppliers and details can be found on the website.

The PE kit consists of plain black leggings/jogging bottoms, Academy PE top, Academy wet top, Academy PE socks and sport trainers. Plain black base layers can be worn under the Academy PE top to support comfort and warmth. We urge all parents to ensure that your son or daughter has a suitable coat to wear in case of wet or cold weather.

Travel to and from the Academy

The message from the Government during the lockdown period reiterates the need for everyone to stay at home and not leave that environment unless you are travelling to and from school. This means that our students must return home at the end of the day and ensure that they are two meters apart from each other unless they are in a support bubble or in the same household as the other person. The guidance states that your son or daughter should only meet with one other person from another household whilst not on-site at the Academy.

For this reason we will be dismissing students at the following times from their normal entrance/exit:

- Year 7 - 14:40
- Year 8 - 14:40
- Year 9 - 15:00
- Year 10 - 14:50
- Year 11 - 15:10
- Sixth form - 15:00

Minibuses will leave at the normal time and face masks will need to be worn, as standard, both to and from the academy. Students should wait in their Year Zone until their pastoral mentor or head of year takes them to the bus.

If students are attending detentions or after school clubs they will remain in their zones until after the 3pm bell has sounded.

Visitors

Unfortunately during the lockdown period we will be unable to accept visitors at the Academy. If you wish to speak to a member of the staff team please phone reception on 01752 338373 or email

enquiries@plympton.academy and a telephone meeting or video call (Google Meet or Zoom) will be organised for you with the required member of staff at the earliest opportunity.

Attendance

It is vitally important that all children return to school to minimise, as far as possible, the longer-term impact of the pandemic on children's education, wellbeing and wider development. The guidance we follow includes:

- The parents' duty to secure their child's attendance regularly at school
- The school's responsibilities to record attendance and follow up absence
- The availability to issue sanctions, including a fixed term penalty notice, in line with local authorities' codes of conduct

We will continue to work closely with families where there are concerns about any health issues relating to the Covid-19 situation.

It is without doubt that the guidance will change upon further Government announcements and I will endeavour to work quickly to inform you of any further changes. To support our communication with you please ensure that we have an accurate record of your contact details including your email and mobile number.

I thank you for your continued support and hope to see you all in the not too distant future

Warm regards

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'L Boorman', with a large, stylized loop at the end.

Ms L Boorman
Principal