

Plympton Academy

Moorland Road, Plympton, Plymouth, PL7 2RS

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Ref: LBO/TOV

2nd September 2021

Dear parent/carer

It is that time of year again when I have the fantastic task of welcoming the young people in our care back to the Academy to start the next part of their academic journey. We have had amazing results from our Year 11 and Year 13 students who completed their A level, GCSE and BTEC qualifications and this reflects their attitude and determination to succeed, despite the obstacles in their way. We have nearly 100 students joining us into Year 12 this September, showing the great reputation our Academy has developed and the improvements to attainment showcased by our students.

The summer has seen much development across the site again, with our old SEN area being demolished, providing us with a new area overlooking the field that will provide outdoor seating for students. All of our classrooms have been overhauled and painted to assist the move back to departments across the Academy, providing great learning spaces for them to study in. The campus really demonstrates the high quality that we strive to achieve in all that we do.

Our thoughts are with the families that have been affected by the incident in the Keyham area. At the time we put together a pastoral response team to support our students that live near that area or who have been impacted. This will continue to be in place if required going forward.

As you may be aware, Plymouth has been identified as a Covid Enhanced Response Area (ERA) due to the high rates of Covid19 across the Peninsula. As such it is now important that we support a decline in the number of positive cases by making small adjustments to the way we operate. As such the following conditions will apply when the students return on Monday 6th September and will also apply when they are having their lateral flow tests on Friday 3rd September and Tuesday 7th September:

- Staff and students are required to **wear face coverings** when in any communal area during the school day.
- Staff and students are required to wear face coverings on any form of school transport



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- It is not mandatory to wear face coverings in the classroom during lessons or other areas, however if a student or member of staff wishes to do so they will be able to. It is important to note that masks should not be worn around the chin but put away appropriately when not in use.
- Encourage all members of the learning community to undertake twice weekly lateral flow tests and record in the School Screener app.

These measures will be reviewed by the local authority after a period of two weeks and I will look to update you as soon as I have more information. I thank you in advance for your support in this matter: please ensure your son/daughter has at least one mask on them at all times.

You may also be aware that the information around **self-isolation** has changed. If you have symptoms, you should seek to complete a PCR test and isolate until the result comes through. If a PCR test is not completed, you should isolate for 10 days from the first symptoms. However, household members do **not** need to self-isolate if they are fully vaccinated or under 18 years and six months but should complete a PCR test as soon as possible.

Start of term dates have been sent through to parents and carers prior to the summer holidays, however, as a gentle reminder:

- Friday 3rd September - Lateral flow testing appointment times distributed. Students do not need to stay after their test or wear school uniform
- Monday 6th September - **All students** to return to the Academy in full uniform for their first day back - reminder that all students should be in their tutor rooms by 0830
- Tuesday 7th September - Lateral flow testing appointment times distributed. Students do not need to stay after their test or wear school uniform

Remote Learning:

If students in Years 8-11 are not able to attend the Academy on **Monday 6th September** because they are self-isolating, they should complete homework-style Knowledge Organiser tasks (30 minutes per timetabled subject). This term's Knowledge Organisers will be available in the 'Students' section of the Academy website. Year 7 students who are self-isolating will be contacted individually by the pastoral team. Students in Year 12 who are self-isolating should continue to complete the Summer Work and Students in Year 13 will be provided with independent study via Google Classrooms.

On **Tuesday**, students in Years 8-11 will be expected to complete homework-style Knowledge Organiser tasks (30 minutes per timetabled subject) when not on site for their lateral flow test. Students will be provided with Knowledge Organisers on Monday. Students in Year 7 will be provided with a work booklet. Students in Year 12 should continue to complete the Summer Work and Students in Year 13 will be provided with independent study via Google Classrooms.

From **Wednesday**, students who are self isolating will join their lessons remotely using the link in Google Classroom, as previously. Students will be reminded of this process on Monday.

If you have any further questions about these arrangements please do not hesitate to contact the Academy on enquiries@plympton.academy and we will be happy to help.

I look forward to another successful year at the Academy and wish you all well.

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'L Boorman'. The signature is fluid and cursive, with a large loop at the end of the word 'Boorman'.

Ms L Boorman
Principal