

September 2021

Parent / Carer Update

Dear Parent / Carer,

I hope you have enjoyed the summer and are starting to get prepared for your child to start back at school in September. We have been lucky to have had a seven-week break and I am looking forward to welcoming all students to Castle View Enterprise Academy as the new Principal.

Return to School

Step 4 marked a new phase in the government's response to the pandemic, moving away from stringent restrictions on everyone's day-to-day lives, towards advising people on how to protect themselves and others, alongside targeted interventions to reduce risk. As COVID-19 becomes a virus that we learn to live with, there is now an imperative to reduce the disruption to children and young people's education - particularly given that the direct clinical risks to children are extremely low, and every adult has been offered a first vaccine and the opportunity for two doses by mid-September.

Our priority is to deliver face-to-face, high-quality education to all of our students. The evidence is clear that being out of education causes significant harm to educational attainment, life chances, and mental and physical health.

We no longer need to keep children in consistent groups ('bubbles'), therefore students will move more around the Academy to the different zones, especially for specialist subjects e.g. science, technology, ICT, PE and PA. We are also able to some have face-to-face assemblies in the main hall.

As per my previous update, we will be keeping many of our measures in place that were implemented last academic year. Students will enter the Academy via an entrance for their year group; these will be as follows:

Year 7 – English

Year 8 – Humanities

Year 9 – Science

Year 10 – Technology

Year 11 – Maths

This means that once students are on site all year 7, 9 and 11 students need to keep to the right of the building and year 10 and 8 students will go to the left of the building. There will be signs and staff to assist.

We will be operating a one-way system once students are in the building due to the number of students we have on roll, as we are now oversubscribed.

Safety

Face coverings are no longer advised for students, staff and visitors, either in classrooms or in communal areas. The government recommends that they are worn in enclosed and crowded spaces e.g. dedicated transport to school, therefore, we will be asking students who travel on the minibus to school to wear a mask.

Our control measures to ensure your child is kept as safe as possible will include:

- Ensuring good hygiene for everyone.
- Maintaining appropriate cleaning regimes.
- Keeping occupied spaces well ventilated.
- Following public health advice on testing, self-isolation and managing confirmed cases of COVID-19.

All of our risk assessments, including the latest version, can be found at:

<https://www.castleviewenterprisecademy.co.uk/the-academy/covid-19-information-and-guidance/>

COVID-19

When an individual develops COVID-19 symptoms or has a positive test

Students should follow public health advice on when to self-isolate and what to do. They should not come into school if they have symptoms, have had a positive test result or other reasons requiring them to stay at home due to the risk of them passing on COVID-19 (for example, they are required to quarantine). If a student develops any symptoms, however mild, they will be sent home and parents need to follow public health advice.

Self-isolation

Students are not required to self-isolate if they live in the same household as someone with COVID-19, or are a close contact of someone with COVID-19 as they are below the age of 18 years.

NHS Test and Trace will contact you to let you know if your child has been identified as a contact and check whether they are legally required to self-isolate. Even if they do not have symptoms, you will be advised to take your child to have a PCR test as soon as possible but they do not need to self-isolate whilst they await the result.

Asymptomatic Testing

As students will have potentially mixed with lots of other people during the summer holidays, therefore we are requesting your consent for your child to receive two on-site lateral flow device tests, three to five days apart, on their return in the autumn term.

Students should then continue to test twice-weekly at home until the end of September, when this will be reviewed.

Attendance

School attendance is mandatory for all students of compulsory school age and it is a priority to ensure that all children regularly attend school. Where they are unable to attend because they have a confirmed case of COVID-19 they will be recorded as an illness.

Uniform

We fully appreciate items of uniform that have been donated to the Academy. We are still accepting items if you wish to add to our preloved collection.

Uniform returns to normal this year, therefore when your child has PE they must come to school in full uniform and bring their PE kit with them as changing facilities are back in use.

We are required to ensure maximum ventilation; therefore, all of the windows will be open. Please ensure your child wears a base layer under their shirt on some of those cooler days if they are likely to feel cold. This will be reviewed as we move into the winter months.

If you have any questions or queries, don't hesitate to email us at enquiries@cvea.co.uk and we will direct your query to the most relevant person. Parent/Carers need to make an appointment via our website enquiries or by telephone if they wish to see a member of staff on site, rather than just arriving at reception.

Yours faithfully,



Mrs J Owens
Principal

