



'An Academy to be Proud of'

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16th July 2021

Dear Parents/Carers,

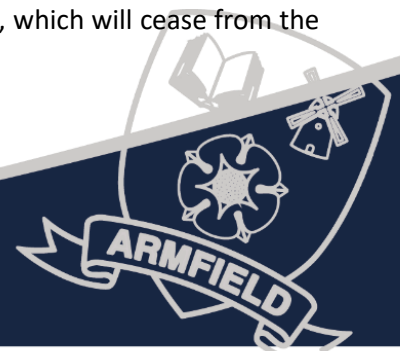
The purpose of this letter is two-fold: firstly, to thank you for your continued and unfailing support during the course of the last sixteen months and to outline our plans to relaunch Armfield Academy in September. As parents/carers will fully appreciate, this is being done in the light of the government's announcement regarding changes to educational settings that come into effect with Step 4 of the easing of lockdown restrictions, which are detailed below.

I would like to take this opportunity, on behalf of all the staff at Armfield Academy, to extend our sincere gratitude for all the care, commitment and support you have shown to my staff and I, in what has proved to be the most challenging of times, certainly in my lifetime. Back in March 2020, I said that together we would work through this period, we would stand together and no matter what is thrown our way we would overcome... and we have. It has been really challenging for families, our staff and of course our younger children and students. We still have a big job to do and working in partnership we will do our utmost best to support all our families, make up for lost learning time and through working with appropriate agencies we will engage the expertise necessary to help with mental health related concerns as and where presented. Parents/Carers, will be interested to learn in the background, notwithstanding the pandemic, home learning, online learning, live lessons and the complexities of working in six different bubbles our school has grown considerably since March 2020; we have employed 67 new staff. Furthermore, we will also see our first cohort of Key Stage 4 students actively engage with their options and begin preparations for their GCSEs in 2023, not to mention the first buds have been planted within our 'Forest School' located within the grounds of our primary school.

To this end, we will be relaunching Armfield Academy in September 2021; when we went into the first lockdown the school was only five terms old. The standards, expectations and values that we hold dear will be driven at great pace as we make rapid progress to returning the school back on track to being the very best we can be. Naturally, your support in this endeavour is vital and I thank you in advance for supporting the staff and I as we adopt a zero-tolerance approach to disruptive behaviour, re-energising our rewards driven culture and attention to detail with our shared standards and expectations; impeccable uniform; outstanding presentation in our books; politeness, kindness, decency and respect in our community and owning mistakes as and when made; developing real character and resilience as we mature through each of the phases of Armfield Academy. In the end, we want our children to thrive and forge successful futures with real purpose. This has always been the cornerstone of our educational philosophy; every single child deserves a great start. This ideal has never been more important.

Summary of Step 4 Changes to Educational Settings:

The following changes announced by the government will come into effect at Armfield Academy from 1st September 2021. The only exception to this is the school's requirement to conduct contact tracing, which will cease from the implementation of Step4 on Monday 19th July.





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- **Hand Hygiene:** students will continue to clean their hands regularly with soap and water or hand sanitiser.
- **Bubbles:** It will no longer be necessary to keep children in consistent groups (bubbles).
- **Managing those with symptoms and positive cases:** Students should not come into school if they have symptoms. If they develop symptoms whilst in school they should be sent home. Those displaying symptoms should book a PCR test and self-isolate until they receive the result. In the event of a positive PCR result, the individual will be required to self-isolate.
- **Contact tracing:** close contacts will be identified via NHS Test and Trace and schools will no longer be expected to undertake contact tracing. Close contacts from a school setting will be only traced by NHS Test and Trace where the positive case specifically identifies the individual as being a close contact.
- **Self-Isolation:** from 16th August 2021, adults who have been 'double-jabbed' and children under the age of 18 years old will no longer be required to self-isolate if they are contacted by NHS Test and Trace. Instead, children and adults in school will be informed they have been in close contact with a positive case and advised to take a PCR test.
- **Face coverings:** students will no longer be required to wear face coverings in classrooms or in communal areas, or whilst travelling to/from school on public transport. In the event of a local outbreak, face coverings may be reinstated.
- **Ventilation:** Classrooms and offices must remain well-ventilated, comfortable environments.
- **LFD Testing:** Students will be requested to take two LFD tests in the school's on-site test centre on their return in September 2021.
- **Risk Assessment/Contingency Plans:** Schools will continue to be required to have full risk assessment in place for the new school year and a contingency plan managing a Covid-19 outbreak in school
- **Remote Education:** schools will continue to be required to provide remote education for those students who are not able to attend for Covid-19 related reasons (typically self-isolation).

Arrangements for the 2021/2022 School Year:

In light of the changes set out above we have reviewed our existing procedures and made plans for the new school year. These plans will be set out in the attached letters specific to both our primary school and secondary school respectively. Appropriate to your child's phase I would respectfully ask that you read the accompanying letters from either Mrs McKinnon (Primary) or Mr Hallam (Secondary). To those families with siblings in both phases both letters detailing the specific arrangements will apply.

I thank in advance of your support and we look forward to welcoming your child back into a 'bubbleless' Armfield Academy in September.

Kindest regards,

Mark Kilmurray
Headteacher

