



GARSTANG COMMUNITY ACADEMY

Bowgreave ☒ Garstang ☒ Lancashire ☒ PR3 1YE ☒ Tel: 01995 603226 ☒ Email:
info@garstangcommunityacademy.com

31st August 2021

Dear Parent/Carer

I am looking forward to the start of this term with huge amounts of excitement and enthusiasm for a return to something approaching normality and of wonderfully enjoyable teaching, learning and achieving, both inside and outside the classroom throughout the year. Please discuss the reminders below with your child to ensure a smooth, orderly and positive return to school later this week:

- Due to the Government telling us that we must test students twice on their return in September, we will only welcome Year 7 and Year 11 back on Thursday 2nd September and students will be tested in the first part of the morning. Years 8, 9 and 10 will be welcomed back and tested on Friday 3rd September. Please note Years 7 and 11 will NOT be in school on Friday 3rd September. All students will then return on Monday 6th September and will be re-tested on the Monday (Years 7 and 11) and Tuesday (Years 8,9 and 10) during the course of their normal day. Consent for Years 8 – 10 will be assumed according to consent given earlier in the year – please inform us if you wish to withdraw your consent. New year 7 parents have been contacted separately to gain their consent.
- On arrival, children should go directly to one of the outdoor areas close to their Form Room (see 'Operational Expectations' below for available areas). Staff on duty at the front of school on Thursday and Friday will have a list of Form Groups and Form Rooms. Year 7 children will be guided directly to the gym.
- We have just had confirmation from Public Health Lancashire that masks are no longer required in classrooms and public areas of school. However, both children and adults must still feel comfortable wearing masks if they wish to do so. We are advised that these arrangements could change if there are local outbreaks.
- Forms and classes will no longer be taught in 'bubbles' or 'bubble rooms'.

FYLDE COAST ACADEMY TRUST

Company Limited by Guarantee Number 08364709

Registered in England & Wales – Registered Office: Armfield Academy, 488 Lytham Road, Blackpool, FY4 1TL



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- School site will continue to only be open to students from 8.15am, but registration in 'normal' registration groups/rooms will return to an 8.40am start – this means that students should be entering their form rooms at 8.40am, not just coming through the school gates at this time.
- The school day will end at 3.05pm for everyone other those staying for after-school activities.
- Split breaks and lunches will continue; students on a particular lunch will not be restricted to a particular canteen at lunchtime but, as lessons will still be happening for some year groups, will have an outside zone which they will be expected to occupy for the rest of their break/lunch. Wet breaks/lunches will be in the canteen areas.

As this aspect is quite new, we have put together some additional 'Operational Expectations' (and some reminders) which I have included below. Students will be taken through these on their first day back.

- Uniform will return to normal with no 'PE Uniform' day. Please make sure that you check the list on the website, but things we will be watching very closely for are coat colour (navy, black or dark blue), dark socks (ankle only for girls), proper shoes.
- Classrooms will still need to be ventilated and therefore you may wish to purchase plain underclothing and school jumpers – we will keep the long-sleeved jumper as part of our uniform for the next academic year.
- Children travelling to school on buses (LCC/school or Stagecoach Transport) will be required to wear masks at all times while on the bus.
- Following the two tests we will administer, children will return to twice weekly testing at home. Children who test positive or who have symptoms of Covid, should stay at home and take a PCR test. If you still have Lateral Flow Tests at home, I would advise that children take a test the evening before they return to school to try to avoid difficulties of children being sent home during the school day.
- All 16-year-olds in England are now eligible for the COVID-19 vaccine. The government are encouraging students in this age group to get the vaccine as soon as they can so that they are protected when they return to school.

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FCAT
The best we can be

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Anyone in this age group can now find their nearest centre through the 'grab a job' [NHS online walk-in finder](#) .

- We will continue with 'virtual' Progress Evenings through this year but we will also have on-site Information Evenings which start on the 8th September with the Year 7 Information Evening (combined with an opportunity to 'Meet the Form Tutor') and the Year 11 Information Evening on the 9th. Details of these evenings and other dates will be communicated in due course.

Very best wishes, and stay safe,

Alasdair Ashcroft
Headteacher

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Operational Expectations of GCA Students: Sept 2021

Start time:

Form time starts at 8.40am promptly. Students who arrive in their form rooms after this time will be regarded as being late and will accrue consequences accordingly.

Before school:

Site is only open to children from 8.15am – children should not be on site before this and buses will be told not to arrive before 8.15.

Where to go:

Children should not be in buildings unless accessing breakfast in the main canteen – this will be available to all students and seating will be available.

Other students should wait in outdoor areas close to their form rooms so that they are ready to enter their form rooms immediately that the 8.40am bell rings. The available areas for waiting are:

Between Calder and Parlick for Calder form rooms.

Rear of Parlick for Parlick rooms.

Rear of the gym for Ibison rooms.

Between the Hall and Bowland for Bowland and Fairsnape rooms.

Children should not wait at the front of the school buildings as vehicles are accessing these areas before school.

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Break & Lunchtimes:

With the introduction of split lunches, and with other children being educated in rooms across the school and not just in bubble zones, it is imperative that the education of children is not interrupted or disturbed by those who are on a different break/lunch.

Break/Lunch 1 – Years 7, 8 and 10

Break – Main canteen open to all 3 year groups

Lunchtime – All serveries open to all 3 year groups.

Zones – when not in the canteens, children should occupy the following areas and not be inside the buildings for any reason other than to use the toilets as specified:

Year 7 and 8 – front of school zone and use gender neutral toilets next to C4 with additional capacity for girls only to use the toilets in Fairsnape.

Year 10 – rear of Parlick and use boys toilets next to gym or girls toilets next to C5. For safety reasons, courts must only to be used by students actively involved in sensible ball games.

Break/Lunch 2 – Years 9 and 11

Break – Main canteen open to both year groups

Lunchtime – All serveries open to both year groups.

Zones – when not in the canteens, children should occupy the following areas and not be inside the buildings for any reason other than to use the toilets as specified:

Year 9– front of school zone and use gender neutral toilets next to C4 with additional capacity for girls only to use the toilets in Fairsnape.

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Year 11 – rear of Parlick and use boys toilets next to gym or girls toilets next to C5. For safety reasons, courts must only to be used by students actively involved in sensible ball games.

Movement around school:

Students must respect the lessons still being taught as they move around school between lessons, at the start/end of break/lunch, and getting to and from the canteens.

Students should use the corridor past reception/Mr Ashcroft's office to access the main canteen.

End of the day:

School will end at 3.05pm for all, and children should board buses, leave site or go to an after-school activity as soon as possible.

Student should always:

- Be punctual for school and for lessons throughout the day.
- Care about their appearance and make sure they follow the uniform policy.
- Care about their behaviour and how it impacts on others at all times.
- Care about the appearance and content of work produced.
- Formulate challenging goals and ambitions and work hard to achieve them.
- Engage in and take responsibility for their own learning by participating fully in learning activities in the classroom - there can be no passengers.
- Enter the classroom in a calm, quiet and purposeful manner.
- Find and complete the 'Go Task' immediately on entry into the classroom.

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- Remain fully engaged in their own learning for the duration of every lesson – conversations, should they occur, should be centred around learning and not social interactions.
- Think about answers to all questions asked, and to answer questions when they are directed to them, not to put up hands or shout answers out.
- Ask questions to further understanding and/or clarify understanding in an appropriate way.
- Engage in and take responsibility for their own learning by completing set class work in an appropriate time and to the best of their ability.
- Engage in and take responsibility for their own learning by completing set homework on time and to the best of their ability.
- Be proud to Grow, Care and Achieve

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