

27 August 2020

Dear Parent/Carer,

I am writing to confirm some updates to our previously circulated information regarding school reopening for year 7 to 11 next week. The only information not previously circulated relates to face coverings.

Phased return

The arrangements circulated in the last three weekly letters to parents issued before Summer have not changed. The dates for return and times are noted below.

Year Group	Return date	Starting time of the school day		Finishing time of the school day
7	2 nd September 2020	No earlier than 8:30AM	No later than 8:40AM	2:55PM
8	4 th September 2020	No earlier than 8:40AM	No later than 8:50AM	3:05PM
9	3 rd September 2020	No earlier than 8:40AM	No later than 8:50AM	3:05PM
10	4 th September 2020	No earlier than 8:50AM	No later than 9:00AM	3:15PM
11	2 nd September 2020	No earlier than 8:50AM	No later than 9:00AM	3:15PM

All children in year 7 to 11 are required to come into school via the back entrance (of Milford Avenue).

Face Coverings

The Government issued updated guidance regarding face coverings. Please read the information below carefully as it is relevant to all staff and students in Year 7 and above. A full protocol is on the academy website: -

- Unity Academy (and the wider Fylde Coast Academy Trust) will require the use of face coverings to be worn by all students in Y7 above and staff in areas **indoors** where social distancing is more difficult. These include but are not limited to: -
 - Corridors
 - Main hall (including during assemblies - this does not apply to colleagues delivering assemblies)
 - Canteens (when students/staff are not eating)
- All face coverings worn in school must be of a plain colour and each member of staff and student will be provided with 3 washable fabric face coverings. The coverings should be washed regularly; this is the responsibility of the student/parent and the staff

member. These will be part of the uniform and students should only wear the provided mask or a disposable mask.

- If a student or member of staff forgets a mask, they will be required to wear a disposable face covering. If the fabric face masks do not arrive in time for the start of the new academic year, disposable masks will be provided until they do arrive.
- Staff will be consistent in requiring the use of face coverings and the usual behaviour policies will apply with sanctions up to and including time in isolation if children refuse to wear them.
- Some children will be exempt. Parents or carers will be required to discuss this with their child's Head of Year.
- Face coverings should not be used in classrooms. Children will remove them when they are seated at their own desk. Resealable plastic bags will be provided for hygienic storage.
- If a parent or carer would like a student to wear a mask in the classroom or a student would like to wear a mask in the classroom, they should contact the relevant head of year to discuss this.

Uniform

Full school uniform including the provided plain face covering is required in September. In the interest of hygiene, we would ask that a fresh shirt is worn daily. Government guidance does not require any additional washing of clothes beyond normal routines. Face coverings can be washed by hand and should be washed each evening. 3 face coverings are provided in order to allow for washing and drying time.

Black leather style shoes are required.

For clarification, the new style PE top is only required for students in Y7. For students in other year groups the old-style red polo shirt can be worn. Also, for clarification, the only compulsory parts of PE kit are the top (with logo), plain black shorts, socks and footwear. All other parts of the kit are optional. Whilst the additional items with Unity logos are preferred, as we are asking children to wear PE kit all day on the days they have PE, they can wear any plain coloured (blue or black preferably) tracksuit bottoms, leggings or hoody for the time being. Small logos are acceptable.

I would also like to remind parents that hair colour should be natural and extreme hair styles are not allowed. Can I also remind parents that piercings (other than in the ear) are not allowed. If students have had piercings done over summer break, parents will need to make arrangements for jewellery to be removed before September.

Full details of uniform are on the website, including a guide to appropriate footwear.

Thank you once again for your patience whilst we have worked through Government guidance and apologies for circulating the information related to face coverings so late into the holiday period; we have responded to Government guidance (issued on the 25th August 2020) as quickly as possible.

Yours sincerely,



Mr S Cooke
Headteacher