



4<sup>th</sup> June 2020

JCO/JHR/Yr10/return to Leigh

Dear Parents/Carers

## Re: Year 10 Return to The Leigh Academy

I am pleased to finally be able to share with you our plans for Year 10s and 12s to return to the academy from Monday 15<sup>th</sup> June 2020.

As I am sure you will have heard the Prime Minister said on Sunday 24<sup>th</sup> May

“Secondary schools, sixth forms and colleges will be asked to provide face-to-face contact for Year 10, Year 12 and equivalent 16-19 further education students as planned, but not until Monday 15<sup>th</sup> June, with around a quarter of these secondary students in at any point”. He also then confirmed in his announcements on Thursday 28<sup>th</sup> May, that England is moving to Phase 2 and secondary schools should continue with their plans for 15<sup>th</sup> June.

We have spent a considerable amount of time thinking, planning, researching, discussing and consulting on how best to ensure the safety of staff and students, whilst also being able to give some ‘face to face’ education to our Year 10s and Year 12s, the two-year groups who have been chosen as they will be facing external examinations next summer.

Our safety measures include:

- Social distancing, small groups, minimising student movement, allocated toilet facilities, staggered entry, exit, breaks and lunches, regular handwashing, increased cleaning throughout the day, hand sanitisers in every room, one-way systems, updated procedures for our medical room and if a child is unwell.
- We have carried out risk assessments to ensure we are following all guidance as best possible; in line with the particular context of our site and community
- The use of public transport to and from the academy is discouraged but if necessary then the government’s guidelines regarding the use of public transport should be followed.

The following has been agreed:

Year 10s students will attend the academy one day a week.

- Chaucer Year 10s on a Monday
- Da Vinci Year 10s on a Tuesday
- Darwin Year 10s on a Thursday
- Brunel Year 10s on a Friday

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This will mean that there are no more than 60 Year 10 students per day in the academy. Students will be split into groups of no more than 15. Students will be in that group for the entire day and will not mix with any other group. This will therefore minimise contact between students whilst on site. Each group will be allocated a classroom that is their room for the day. We are lucky to have the 'double size' classrooms with partition walls, which we will have open. So a space that previously would have seated 60 students will now be available for the 15 in the group. Tables will be spaced out, to ensure there is a two metre gap between each student. Students will be given a book and a pencil case that is theirs to use and will not be used by anyone else. Students are encouraged to bring their Chromebooks or laptops into the lesson and there will be cleaning wipes available for use.

The schedule of the day will include a tutor or academic mentoring session. The aim of this session is to welcome students back into the academy environment, explain the process, safety measures and code of conduct around the building. There will be some pastoral support activities as we know that students have been out of formal education for ten weeks and will have had very different experiences and have faced many challenges. There will be an opportunity for support to be given. Academic mentoring via their subject teachers will also take place; this will develop over time and will include discussion on what has gone well with online learning and any difficulties faced.

There will then be taught lessons. Students will remain in the one room, and teachers will come to them. So minimising student movement and contact with others. Students will be taught English, mathematics and science every day that they are with us and a rotation of option subjects over time.

Students will be asked to arrive at staggered times and leave at staggered times. Break and lunch will be shortened and will be at different times for each group of 15 students.

Students do not need to wear academy uniform as I am very aware of how much children can grow over the space of ten weeks and I am sure that uniforms and shoes will be outgrown with little opportunity to buy new ones at this time. As such students are asked to wear comfortable, sensible clothes to the academy. This could be a tracksuit, skirt or shorts and a T-shirt etc. All clothes should be practical for a day learning in the academy, as this is not a fashion show! All clothes should be washed on their return home from the academy. Shoes could be trainers or summer shoes but no sliders or flip flops. Shoes must be closed toe and heel for health and safety reasons.

Students will be asked to bring a packed lunch into the academy with them. This must contain lunch, snacks and drinks for the day as the restaurant is closed and the water fountains cannot be used. Free School Meal vouchers will continue for those that are eligible, and will come via email as has been the case since April. Students will be able to use the toilets when they need to but each group of students will be allocated a set of toilets for their use. Only one student will be able to go into the toilet block at one time. The guidance is that schools do not require the use of PPE. However, this is a personal choice for staff and students, who may choose to wear PPE, gloves and/or mask if they wish to do so. PPE will be used by cleaners, site staff and first aiders.

A further letter will be sent out to you in the week beginning Monday 8<sup>th</sup> June with your child's personal schedule on and some further details. However, I hope that this letter gives you an idea at least of how we plan to move forward to educate your child, whilst implementing all precautionary measures possible. On the days when your child is not on site at The Leigh Academy, the online learning via Google classrooms will continue, as well as the development of some Live online lessons via Google Hangouts.

As well as Year 10 students on site, we will be continuing our provision for key worker and vulnerable students. These 20-30 students will have their own schedules and rooming separate from Year 10 students. A quarter of Year 12 students will also be attending sessions at The Leigh Academy each day. Year 12 students will attend a two-hour morning or afternoon session only. So, these students will arrive and leave at different times to Year 10 students and they will not be on site for break or lunch time. Again, minimising contact between any groups.

I do appreciate that this is a worrying time for parents and I want to reassure you that safety has always been and remains a priority. It is important that we begin to re-establish learning routines and this plan enables us to begin to do this, as Year 10 students return to the academy in a carefully managed way.

You will also receive a phone call from a member of your child's College leadership team in the week beginning Monday 8<sup>th</sup> June to discuss any queries that you may have and for you to give us an indication whether your child will or won't be attending. We encourage students to attend, but no parent will be penalised for absence.

Take care and stay safe.

Yours faithfully

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Julia Collins', written in a cursive style.

Julia Collins  
Principal