



4th June 2020

JCO/JHR/Yr12/return to Leigh

Dear Parents/Carers

Re: Year 12 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 15th June 2020.

As I am sure you will have heard the Prime Minister said on Sunday 24th 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 15th June, with around a quarter of these secondary students in at any point”. He also then confirmed in his announcements on Thursday 28th May, that England is moving to Phase 2 and secondary schools should continue with their plans for 15th 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:

Each day of the week an Option block of Year 12 lessons will be delivered. Four subjects will be delivered in the morning, four subjects will be delivered in the afternoon. Each session will last two hours. Students will attend for the two hour lesson only and then leave the academy site. As such they will not be onsite for a break time or a lunch time or any study periods. This means that students will attend for the purpose of learning with some pastoral support. Each group will be allocated a room that is as large as possible so that desks can be widely spaced out.

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This will therefore minimise contact between students whilst on site. 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.

Students do not need to wear business dress as I am very aware of how much children can grow over the space of ten weeks and I am sure that usual academy wear 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.

If students want a snack or drink whilst they are on site, then they must bring this with them. 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 8th 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 12 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 12 students. A quarter of Year 10 students will also be attending sessions at The Leigh Academy each day. Year 10 students will be following a different schedule and times of the day. This will mean that different years and groups of children will be kept separate within the building thus minimising any contact.

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 12 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 8th 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', with a stylized flourish at the end.

Julia Collins
Principal