

ALEC REED ACADEMY



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www.alecreedacademy.co.uk

CEO & Principal: Allison Moise-Dixon

Dear Parents and Carers,

I hope you and your families are all in good health and a special welcome to those of you with children that are new to the academy.

As you will have seen in the news the expectation remains that that every child will return to school at the beginning of September. The Prime Minister has stated that it is our “moral imperative” to reopen schools and the Chief Medical Officer has confirmed that, “the risk of catching coronavirus in schools is very small”. I know that despite these reassurances some of you will still be anxious about how our school day will operate. Over the last month the academy has been working alongside a range of agencies, to ensure that every child can come back to school, in a social distanced learning environment, without compromising their educational experience, their progress on their entitlement to a varied curriculum. I encourage you to visit our website <https://www.alecreedacademy.co.uk/page/?title=Covid%2D19&pid=180> where you will find updated documents and information regarding our return, including a booklet produced by Ealing that provides specific guidance on ‘Supporting your child’s return to school’.

The autumn term will start with the phased return of pupils, this approach allows us to gradually increase the number of children on site during the first week of school and provide them with detailed information regarding our expectations in the classroom and around the building. As each year group returns, they will have staggered start, break, lunch and dismissal times to minimise pupil interaction between different year groups. Ms Franklin has already communicated the arrangements for the primary phase, the arrangements for the secondary phase are shown in the table below.

Secondary Phase					
	Return Date	Start time	Break time	Lunch time	Dismissal
Year 7	Monday 7 th September onwards.	8.30am	10.45 – 11.00am	12.00 – 12.30pm	2.30pm
Year 8	Thursday 10 th September	8.45am	11.15– 11.30am	12.45 – 1.15pm	2.45pm
Year 9	Friday 11 th September onwards.	9.30am	11.45 – 12.00pm	1.00 – 1.30pm	3.30pm
Year 10	Wednesday 9 th September	8.45am	11.15– 11.30am	12.30 – 1.00pm	2.45pm
Year 11	Tuesday 8 th September	8.30am	10.45 – 11.00am	12.15 – 12.45pm	2.30pm
Year 12	Monday 7 th September onwards.	8.30am on Monday 7 th Sept 9.30am from Tuesday 8 th Sept	11.45 – 12.00pm	1.00 – 1.30pm	3.30pm
Year 13	Tuesday 8 th September	9.30am	11.45 – 12.00pm	1.00 – 1.30pm	3.30pm

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These arrangements will be supplemented by operating control measures in line with Public Health England to minimise, manage or contain any potential outbreak or confirmed case of COVID-19 in the academy community. In support of this the academy has followed all national guidance and have put in place a range of strategies to reduce risk. This includes; fitting hand sanitisers in each classroom, directed hand washing slots, additional COVID-19 related signage (in a range of languages), one-way systems and the removal of furniture to increase social space.

To ease congestion and maintain a smooth flow of children during lunchtime the restaurant will be serving a reduced menu. Food will, for the most part, be available in take away pots that speed up the queuing system and reduce student interaction. We have also invested in a covered, external area that will provide an additional open-air social space where children in the secondary phase will be able to eat their lunch. If you intend to provide your child with a packed lunch then I encourage you to give careful thought to its contents, how it will be eaten and disposed of. It is important that they do not share their food with other students in the way they may have done in the past.

During the school day pupils will be taught in year group bubbles, this aids social distancing, reduces travel around the academy and minimises the risk of transmission. Year groups will stay in specific areas with the teaching staff moving from room to room to deliver the curriculum. We ask that you play your part in protecting our community by ensuring that your child comes to school with their own pencil case that is kept for their own personal use and not shared with other pupils. This should contain the following equipment; 2 pens, 2 pencils, a green pen, an eraser, a ruler, a sharpener, a glue stick, a personal reading book and a scientific calculator. We recommend the Casio fx83 which is available in most stationers.

In recent days the topic of whether children should wear face masks, whilst in school, has been a topic of debate in the news. We will of course, continue to monitor the situation and be guided by any updates from Public Health England. Currently we are not expecting pupils or staff to wear face coverings, although we do recognise that some members of our community may choose to do so. If this is their preference then they will be supported and encouraged in their decision but it must be remembered that **if a mask is worn it must be replaced or cleaned on a daily basis** and should not be seen as a replacement for good hygiene and regular handwashing.

We are confident that the academy has taken all appropriate precautions to reduce the risk of your child contracting the coronavirus. However, if your child displays symptoms - new, continuous cough or a high temperature, or has a loss of, or change in, their normal sense of taste or smell, they will be sent home and you will be advised to follow the 'stay at home' guidance for households with possible or confirmed coronavirus infection. This includes self-isolation for at least 7 days and arranging for a coronavirus test. If they test positive other members of the household will be expected to self-isolate for 14 days. You will also be asked by the NHS Test & Trace team to provide details of anyone they have been in close contact with.

I hope that, like me, your child is looking forward to our return in September, working together we will get them back to school settled, safe, enjoying the challenge of learning and making up on lost ground. With this in mind I ask you to be respectful of the systems that we have put in place and keep your child at home if they display any symptoms of coronavirus and follow the 'stay at home' procedures explained above. I also encourage you to continue to support them in the completion of homework tasks so that the skills and experience that have been developed over the last 6 months can be utilised should we have the unfortunate experience of being placed into a local lockdown due to a spike in infections.

I will continue to keep you updated should we need to change our plans for our September return but if you have any further questions regarding these arrangement then email the academy at Enquiries@alecreedacademy.co.uk and we will do our best to provide a prompt response.

Kind regards and best wishes to you and your family,



Mr P Cosby

Interim CEO & Principal