



Ref: VJW/AKW

23 July 2021

Dear Parent/Carer

At the end of another incredibly challenging year, I would like to thank each and every parent, carer and student for your support, adaptability and commitment towards the education of our young people.

The national picture has changed significantly and, in line with current guidance, we have plans in place to return to the Academy's traditional day timings, structure and routines in September 2021. The Academy day timings will revert to pre Covid-19 as per the website <https://www.tollbaracademy.co.uk/academy-day/>. Students will once again have dedicated registration time with their form tutor each morning; to aid this, over the past week, our current Year 7 students have been taken for familiarisation tours of the Academy site so they are ready for September 2021. We are pleased our students will regain their freedom of movement, particularly in their social spaces.

As life at the Academy returns to a more recognisable format, without bubbles and social restrictions for students, we want to ensure we continue with our forward momentum and innovative trajectory. Parents' Evenings using our online facility have been an overall significant success and will remain in place next year; however, there will be opportunities for parents/carers to visit the site at other times. Our whole Academy shift to Microsoft Teams will also remain. Students have access to the Microsoft Office 365 package at home, including Teams, as well as incorporating commonly used programs such as word, excel and PowerPoint. This will remain in place to support students with homework and their studies.

We have now stopped using the My Ed app and have changed to Sims Online as our main method of communication home. Sims Online has a webpage and an app for parents and an app for students. This allows the Academy to share assessment data, attendance and other key messages instantly when they become available. Sims Online will also be used to inform parents if their child has a detention. With this in mind please can I remind you all to ensure you keep the Academy updated with your current contact details, including your email address. You can do this by email to: [enquiries@tollbaracademy.co.uk](mailto:enquiries@tollbaracademy.co.uk) or by writing a note in your child's planner for their Form Tutor.

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Our presence on social media continues to develop and expand. We want to seize opportunities to share with our wider community the amazing work our students do and their achievements and successes. We would like to invite all members of the Tollbar community to follow our social media. Please see our Academy website homepage for the links to our official accounts.

### **Returning to the Academy in September 2021**

Current guidance indicates that we are expected to offer all returning students (with consent) a Covid-19 LFD test at our onsite testing facility when they return in September. With this in mind and given our capacity to conduct tests, we are looking at a phased return for the students, similar to the return to school in September 2020. This will also give us the opportunity to support students as they return to the pre-Covid routines on site.

We envisage that the return will be set out as below:

**Thursday 2 September 2021 - Year 7 and Year 11 attend only**

**Friday 3 September 2021 - Year 7, Year 10 & Year 11 attend**

**Monday 6 September 2021 - All Year groups attend**

Please see our website for our amended year pattern.

<https://www.tollbaracademy.co.uk/2021-2022/>

The additional bank holiday for Queen Elizabeth's 70<sup>th</sup> Jubilee means we will finish for the summer holiday a day early and therefore the last day of term will be **Monday 25 July 2022**.

### **Cycle Safety**

For a number of years, we have run campaigns in lessons, had support from outside speakers and strongly encouraged our students to wear cycle helmets when cycling to the Academy. Whilst there does seem to be a shift in culture and more students are wearing them this still is not ALL of our students. Please can I ask parents/carers to take the opportunity this summer to ensure that if your child cycles to the Academy, that they have access to a cycle helmet, as well as other key safety equipment when cycling. The well-being and safety of our students is paramount and this is something we need parental support with to make a significant change.

The ongoing roadworks at the front of the Academy have added challenges. The students have behaved impeccably during the disruption and they have been a credit to the Academy. Unfortunately, we have received some reports of parents/carers using nearby housing estates, some of which are private roads, to pick up/drop off students. Please may we ask parents/carers to be mindful of the local community and the impact the road works and resulting disruption may have on their daily lives.

## Uniform

Could I ask parents/carers to look at our website before buying new uniform items. In particular may I mention trousers, as not all those advertised in shops as 'school trousers' meet our uniform requirements. Tollbar uniform requires that trousers are smart, tailored, full length, not stretch material, not tight on the legs and not cropped at the ankle.

## Headphones

In some lessons, students may be working on a computer programme which incorporates sound. To facilitate this, it would be useful and hygienic for students to bring their own pair of plug-in headphones. These do not need to be anything more than a basic pair.

## Supporting Your Child's Learning at Home

During the next academic year, the Academy will continue to focus on catching up missed learning. If parents/carers would like their children to utilise some of the summer break to support this, may we recommend the following resources:

Tollbar Academy website ([www.tollbaracademy.co.uk/stretch-challenge/](http://www.tollbaracademy.co.uk/stretch-challenge/)) where each subject area has a variety of information highlighting skills, content and useful resources

Oak Academy ([www.thenational.academy](http://www.thenational.academy)) has over 10,000 free videos offering support on topics students may be struggling with.

BBC Bitesize ([www.bbc.co.uk/bitesize](http://www.bbc.co.uk/bitesize)) also contains a vast array of information that can help students excel.

And finally, I would like to thank you all personally for your ongoing support with my current role as Interim Principal. I wish you all a restful and safe summer holiday break.

Yours faithfully



Miss V J Watts  
Interim Principal