

Furness Academy
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31 August 2021

Dear parents, carers and students

I hope this letter finds you well and that you have had a great summer break. As you will no doubt expect, over the summer and in between leave, we have been preparing our school ready for the start of this new academic year. We are really looking forward to welcoming our **new Year 7 students on Friday 3 September at 08.40am**, with the rest of the year groups returning to us on **Monday 6 September at 08.40am**.

We intend, as far as it is possible, to not have another school year defined by COVID-19 and to make every attempt to return to the successful routines and rhythm of school life. That said, we know that we must also all do the prudent things that will help with reducing the chance of any possible outbreaks within our school community and the most important one is to maintain good personal hygiene and to regularly wash and sanitise our hands. We will, however, start this academic year with each consenting student completing two supervised Lateral Flow Tests within the first week of term and then, subsequently, twice weekly home tests for the remainder of September. If you gave consent to test your child in March, there is no requirement to give consent again. If you have not yet given consent for your child to be tested, you can request the form by emailing Mrs Robinson, Deputy Headteacher, at hrobinson@furnessacademy.co.uk

Some practical measures that we employed last year will remain, such as specified year group toilets, split lunchtime arrangements, increased classroom ventilation, sanitiser points on entry to the buildings and an increased daily cleaning programme.

The use of face coverings for staff and students is voluntary and we return to normal timetabled lessons taught in subject specific classes and not in 'bubbles'. The PE changing rooms will also be available, so there will be no need for students to attend school in their PE kit as they did last year.

New Year 7 students can arrive at school on Friday either at the main entrance at the front of the academy or via the Lesh Lane entrance at the rear. There will be plenty of helpful staff and Year 11 prefects ready to greet you and guide you to where you need to go.

On Monday, all other students need to enter the academy via the side entrance gate or the Lesh Lane entrance.

Finally, there will be a slight amendment to the published term dates to accommodate the additional bank holiday to celebrate the Platinum Jubilee of Her Majesty the Queen and I will write to you again to inform you of when that date will be taken for our school.

I hope you all enjoy the last few days of the summer break and we look forward to welcoming you back very soon.

Yours faithfully

Mr S P Laheney
Headteacher



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