



16<sup>th</sup> July 2020

Dear Parent/Carer

I am writing to give you some information about:

- Our arrangements for your child’s first week at the Manchester Health Academy in September.
- A coronavirus (COVID-19) update.
- Some general information which you will find useful.

Firstly, on behalf of my staff and I, please let me convey our thanks for your continued support, not just over recent weeks or months but over a much longer period of time. We really are looking forward to the September return of all students.

**Our arrangements for your child’s first week back at Manchester Health Academy**

**Year 11 arrival date and time:**

Your child’s **first day will be Monday 7<sup>th</sup> September**. If you can **ensure your child arrives between 9.30am and 10.00am**. (I have left this arrival time as long as possible so that we don’t have lots of students arriving at the same time). Students will head for the main gate (next to reception) where they will be shown to the canteen whilst they wait to meet their form tutor.

**Year 8, 9 and 10 arrival date and time:**

Your child’s **first day will be Thursday 10<sup>th</sup> September**. I will write to you nearer the end of the summer break with the exact start times and to give you the most up to-date COVID-19 information for schools.

We are adjusting the way we operate during these difficult times and until further notice there will be a **staggered arrival and departure time** for each year group (we are doing this to avoid having lots of children arrive and leave school at the same time).

**General arrival and departure times:**

Once your child has experienced their first full day, there will be a staggering of start and departure times as outlined in the table below.

*(The canteen entrance is the gate at the rear of school behind the new block).*

Year Group	Arrival	Departure
Year 7	Main entrance 8.20am	Main entrance 2.35pm
Year 8	Main entrance 8.40am	Canteen entrance 2.35pm
Year 9	Main entrance 8.30am	Main entrance 2.45pm
Year 10	Canteen entrance 8.30am	Canteen entrance 2.45pm
Year 11	Canteen entrance 8.20am	Main entrance 3.45pm (after ‘Period 6’)

*continued over...*



Please ensure your child arrives with the correct stationery equipment. We will be **minimising the use of shared resources**.

Every student should be equipped with:

- A school bag
- Pencil case
- Pencil
- Pens
- Sharpener
- Eraser

Each student will be given a quality, reusable water bottle for use. It is important that students do not lose their water bottle as replacements will be chargeable. We provide a reusable water bottle because we want to contribute to reducing the use of unnecessary plastic bottles.

### **Coronavirus (COVID-19) Update**

At the time of writing this letter we know that all children are expected to return to school in September. There will need to be some changes to the way we work until the current situation is resolved.

The main focus will be to give your child a high quality education whilst at the same time ensuring our buildings and the way staff and children work with each other are safe and respectful.

As a school we will be producing a 'Helpful COVID-19 Guide to Parents and Carers'. This guide will focus on all aspects of school life. Examples will include how we will be managing the movement of children around the building, how we manage the start and end of the school day, how the canteen will operate, how children can play sport and how we will organise break and lunchtimes.

It will also remind you that if a student has anyone within their household that has [coronavirus \(COVID-19\) symptoms](#), they should not attend the Academy. They should self-isolate immediately and [arrange to have a test](#). If a student tests positive for COVID-19 they should not attend the Academy for 7 days from the onset of symptoms. If the test is positive but the student has not had symptoms, they should self-isolate for 7 days from the date of the test.

If a student develops symptoms during the school day, they will remain in our COVID-19 waiting room until a parent/carer collects them. Parents/carers should arrange for their child to take a test as soon as possible and self-isolate until the results are confirmed.

### **Some general information which you will find useful**

#### **Water**

We have a number of water fountains and these will be back in operation (for filling up reusable water bottles only).

#### **Transport**

We are strongly advising **against** the use of public transport, such as trams. Please consider alternative ways of getting to the Academy. We recommend walking, cycling or travelling by car. You can visit <https://www.gov.uk/guidance/coronavirus-covid-19-safer-travel-guidance-for-passengers> for more information

*continued over...*



### Masks

Students are encouraged to wear masks if using public transport. **All masks will need to be removed upon entry to the Academy.** Single use masks will need to be disposed of, and reusable masks will need to be placed in a plastic bag, we recommend your child brings a sandwich bag with them.

### Are your details up to date?

If you have changed your contact number, or moved address, please ensure we have your current details by emailing [admin@manchesterhealthacademy.org.uk](mailto:admin@manchesterhealthacademy.org.uk).

### Breakfast club

Breakfast club will be available to all students in the canteen. The club opens at 7.30am and will serve free breakfast.

### Cashless

With effect from September, we will no longer be taking cash payments in school. All trips, dinner monies and events will need to be paid for via ParentPay. Students will still be able to load their dinner money account using the self-service machines in the canteen, however change will not be available.

If you have any problems activating or accessing your ParentPay account please contact us at [admin@manchesterhealthacademy.org.uk](mailto:admin@manchesterhealthacademy.org.uk)

### ParentApps

If you have not already signed up to ParentApps please contact us. It takes two minutes to activate your account. We use this platform to communicate important information to you, send letters, consent forms, and other useful information such as term dates. We will be resending activation text messages over the coming days, please activate your account before September.

### School closure

Please note that the school will be completely closed until **week commencing 17<sup>th</sup> August**. From this date, enquiries will be answered between 9.00am – 2.00pm by calling 0161 998 3992 or emailing [admin@manchesterhealthacademy.org.uk](mailto:admin@manchesterhealthacademy.org.uk).

I hope you have a safe and enjoyable summer break and we are looking forward to seeing you soon.

With very best wishes.

Yours faithfully



**Mr K Green**

Principal



