



Astrea Academy Sheffield  
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Principal: Mrs Kim Wilson

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14<sup>th</sup> July 2020

Dear Parent/Carer,

### Plans for September Opening

Following on from our letter to you last week, we can now follow with further guidance about the full reopening of the academy in September 2020.

We are delighted to announce that we are able to open the academy fully to **all pupils** in September – and in this letter are the specific details needed for each year group.

**In line with government announcement, attendance will be mandatory for all pupils from September 2020.**

In order to ensure all staff are trained and prepared ready for the changes in September, following Astrea Trustee Approval, we have decided to hold an **additional INSET day on Friday 17<sup>th</sup> July 2020**.

This means the academy will close to all pupils as of Thursday 16<sup>th</sup> July 2020, and will not reopen until early September 2020.

### Bubbles / Groups

We are planning to continue to operate the 'bubble' system that has been operating over the past few weeks - however our bubbles will extend to whole year groups. Each year group will be isolated as much as possible from other year groups. Classes within a year group may mix and share lunchtimes, teaching sessions and break times. Whole school or key stage events such as assemblies will not take place and children will have staggered start and finish times, separate entrances and exit points.

Bubble	Start Date & Time	Exit & Entry Point	Normal Start Time	End Time
Year 7	Friday 4 <sup>th</sup> September 9.00am	Andover Street Main Entrance	8.10am	2.40pm
Year 8	Monday 7 <sup>th</sup> September 10.00am		8.20am	2.50pm
Year 9	Monday 7 <sup>th</sup> September 11.30am		8.30am	3.00pm



From **Tuesday 8<sup>th</sup> September**, all pupils will attend school at the 'Normal Start Times' as listed above.



## Health & Safety & Social Distancing

The academy is committed to ensuring the building is COVID safe and risk assessments have been conducted to ensure both children and staff are safe whilst at the academy.

- ★ ★ Staggered starts on the first day will allow time for the training of pupils to understand the new systems.
- ★ ★ Lunch times and break times have been staggered to ensure pupils remain in their 'bubbles' and only have social interactions with pupils in the same year group. Lunch will be available to all pupils, with service returning to a pre-COVID level. Staff will clean dining tables in between each sitting.
- ★ ★ A fixed one-way system has been established in the main senior building – pupils will continue to move around the building in silence between lessons.
- ★ ★ Unnecessary items are to be removed from classrooms and limited physical resources will be used in lessons.
- ★ ★ As is the case at present, children will be asked not to bring in and unnecessary items from home, although packed lunches, hats, gloves, sunscreen can be brought in a bag.
- ★ ★ Pupils in KS3 can also bring in a healthy snack – please avoid bringing in crisps, sweets and chocolate.
- ★ ★ Pupils can also bring into school a reading book. Books can be taken home and changed regularly.
- ★ ★ Unfortunately, at this time, parents cannot enter the academy building apart from main reception. Communication with teachers will need to be limited to phone calls and email.
- ★ ★ Parents meetings and SEN reviews in the autumn term will take the form of telephone calls or possibly online meetings.
- ★ ★ Parents should continue to follow government advice with regards to reducing the spread of the infection and children must not attend school if they are displaying any symptoms of the virus.
- ★ ★ Pupils will have their own equipment & stationery. Teachers will have their own stationery packs.
- ★ ★ All classrooms are arranged to ensure all pupils are 'teacher facing' and side by side, rather than across from each other.
- ★ ★ 3 more cleaners have been appointed & will be conducting extra cleaning throughout the academy day.
- ★ ★ Staff have been advised to ensure and enforce socially distancing from each other and also encourage this is of pupils, where possible.
- ★ ★ Pupil desks will be regularly cleaned, particularly in senior school where children will move between classrooms. Pupils will support with this and will be asked to wipe down their desk space at the end of the lesson.

## After Academy Clubs

- ★ ★ Until there is further government guidance, all after academy clubs are cancelled.
- ★ ★ In the senior school, detentions will continue as per the behaviour policy, and will be held in the main hall. (Pupils will be sat on examination desks that will be set 2 metres apart)

## Arrangements should there be a positive case of COVID-19

- ★ ★ Should there be a positive case of COVID-19, the academy will seek the advice of Public Health England and follow guidance. It may be that all or some pupils need to be tested, and it may be the case that we have to close bubbles / year groups for a specified amount of time to allow for self-isolating. In this instance, pupils would resume Home Learning.

## Home Learning Arrangements

- ★ Should a bubble / year group / the academy have to close for a specified period, plans are already in place to ensure Home Learning can continue. Both using technology and also paper based methods.

## Uniform

- ★ All pupils should return to wearing FULL uniform. Please see the academy uniform policy for further guidance. <https://astreasheffield.org/parents/uniform/>

## Curriculum

- ★ We have planned our curriculum for the autumn term to include well-being activities, to ensure pupils can return to a normal routine as quickly as possible.
- ★ Pupils will be sitting baseline assessments so we can get an understanding of where pupils are, and how to ensure they continue to move forward.
- ★ The academic rigour of the curriculum will continue, with extended opportunities for revision and recall.

These continue to be challenging times, but I want to reassure you that we will be doing everything we can to make the school as safe as it possibly can be for our whole community.

Thank you for your ongoing support through these uncertain times.

Yours sincerely,

Kim Wilson | **Executive Principal**