



CONSETT  
ACADEMY

Our Ref KER/CMC

5 March 2021

Dear Parent/Carer

From Tuesday 9 March we will begin to welcome back our students for face to face teaching starting with Year 11 and Year 9, other years will follow on Wednesday and Thursday as set out in my letter on Tuesday.

I thought it would be useful to run through a few reminders ahead of next week. Much of how we will be operating, certainly until Easter, will be remain the same as it was during the Autumn Term, with one or two differences.

Testing – a quick reminder

**If you have given consent and not yet received a time for your child to be tested please contact their Year Manager as soon as possible.**

Each year group will be tested (first test only) on one day and they will return to school the following day as follows:

Monday 8 March: Year 11 & Year 9 to be tested

Tuesday 9 March: Year 10 & Year 8 to be tested/Year 11 & Year 9 to return to school

Wednesday 10 March: Sixth Form & Year 7 to be tested/Year 10 & Year 8 to return to school

Thursday 11 March: Sixth Form & Year 7 to return to school

All first tests will be carried out in the leisure part of the Academy (squash courts area) not in the main building. Specific details and times have already been issued. If you have not yet received a time for your child to be tested please contact their Year Manager as soon as possible. Tests 2 and 3 will be carried out during the second part of w/c 8 March and w/c 15 March on a rota basis whilst students are in school. All testing will strictly follow government guidelines.

**Students do not have to wear school uniform for their first test.**

How the Academy will operate

**Students must not arrive before 8.15am as the gates will not open until 8.15am.**

Each year group will continue to operate as a 'bubble' and will not mix with another year group as a whole. Each year group will be expected to remain in their year group 'bubble'. Year groups will therefore enter at different points of the site and have a different arrival time.

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Part of New College Durham Academies Trust  
Executive Principal: Mr K Reynolds, MA

Ashdale Road  
Consett  
DH8 6LZ

T: 01207 507001

E: [enquiries@consettacademy.org.uk](mailto:enquiries@consettacademy.org.uk)

W: [www.consett-academy.org.uk](http://www.consett-academy.org.uk)

- This is essential to enabling the Academy to respond to the government expectations to keeping year groups separate.
- On entering the building students will sanitise their hands.
- Students will be encouraged to move, single file in a steady flow being reminded to keep socially distanced.

Each year group will have an allocated route to access their area and when moving around the Academy. These routes are designed to limit the students of different year groups meeting.

### School Day

The start of the day will have a staggered arrival with each year group having a holding area:

**8:15-8:30 arrival** – Year 7, 11, 12 & 13

**8:30-8:45 arrival** – Year 8, 9, 10

Holding areas:

- Year 7 – Sports Hall
- Year 8 – Sports Hall
- Year 9 – Theatre
- Year 10 – Atrium (main area)
- Year 11 – Atrium (café area)
- Sixth Form – Sixth Form Area

At the end of the day we will have staggered dismissal with 5 minutes between year groups to enable students to exit safely (see table below).

There will be two morning breaks and three lunch breaks to enable students to remain in their year group 'bubbles'.

### Timings of the day:

Y8/10	
8.30 – 8.45	Arrive
8.45-9.50	P1
9.50-10.55	P2
10.55-11.10	Break
11.10-12.15	P3
12.15-13.20	P4
13.20-13.50	Lunch
13.50-15.00	P5

Y7/11/6th form	
8.15 – 8.30	Arrive
8.45-9.50	P1
9.50-10.05	Break
10.05-11.10	P2
11.10-12.15	P3
12.15-12.45	Lunch
12.45-13.50	P4
13.50-15.00	P5

Y9	
8.30 – 8.45	Arrive
8.45-9.50	P1
9.50-10.05	Break
10.05-11.10	P2
11.10-12.15	P3
12.15-12.45	P4
12.45-13.15	Lunch
13.15-13.50	P4
13.50-15.00	P5

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## Buying food and drink

Our caterers, Mellors, have advised us that whilst they will be able to provide food and drink at break and lunchtimes, due to health and safety measures, this will continue to be a modified offer to the students.

## Paying for food and drink

We are strongly advising parents/carers to pay for school lunches via Parentpay.

## Leaving the Academy

To help ensure students remain in their year bubble we will dismiss them by year group from 2.40pm. Students should leave the Academy via their given exit route and ensure that they leave the school site and not mix with other year group bubbles. We would ask students not to wait outside the school gate to ensure that year group bubbles are maintained.

Transport provided by DCC for students will operate in the usual way with drop off in the morning and pick up in the afternoon being the same time as before schools closed in March 2020.

Student Exits:

Year Group	Exit route	Time (approximately)
7	Bottom of the Y7 stairwell	2:40
8	Bottom of the Sixth Form stairwell	2:45
9	Bottom of the PE stairwell	2:50
10	Student reception	2:55
11	Bottom of Art stairwell	3:00
12/13	Main Reception	3:05

## Student attendance

It is vital for all students to return to school to minimise as far as possible the longer-term impact of the pandemic on their education, wellbeing and wider development. **School attendance will therefore be mandatory again from the 8 March assuming negative test result.** This means from that point, the usual rules on school attendance will apply, including:

- parents' duty to ensure that their child attends regularly at school where the child is a registered pupil at school and they are of compulsory school age;
- schools' responsibilities to record attendance and follow up absence;
- the availability to issue sanctions, including fixed penalty notices in line with local authorities' codes of conduct.

If your child is unable to return to school for any reason please let us know as soon as possible so we can make suitable arrangements. If you are unsure the shielding or self-isolating arrangements please get in touch with your child's Year Manager.

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## **Behaviour expectations**

Our usual expectations around behaviour remain in place and staff will log incidents (positive or negative) in the usual way on Classcharts. As during the Autumn Term there will be additional basic expectations to our usual high standards of behaviour. These will encompass the need for good 'health and safety behaviours to prevent the spread of COVID-19'. **Mutual respect, politeness and following instructions, first time, every time** underpin our Behaviour and Rewards Policy and will remain a basic expectation for every student.

However, we recognise that 'good' behaviour' must be taught, rewarded and modelled, and that has never been more important than now.

**Anti-social behaviour** which puts others at **risk** will not be tolerated. For example, deliberately coughing in another person's face, making malicious statements about the virus, refusing to socially distance where required or refusing to wash hands or wear a face mask are not acceptable and will jeopardise the child's placement at school. **Given the seriousness of the current situation and the limitations this imposes regarding the behaviour support we would ordinarily offer, we will not hesitate to ask a student to leave the Academy if they breach health and safety regulations or any aspect of our Behaviour and Rewards policy.**

### Uniform and personal appearance

On return to school from 8 March, we do expect students have full school uniform. By wearing uniform, it allows students to change as soon as they arrive home. **All students will be expected to have the correct trousers or skirt, shirt and shoes and for PE we would expect them to have blue or black sports leggings or trousers accompanied with a plain white, blue or black t-shirt.**

Please refer to our website for of uniform expectations.

A reminder that jewellery is not permitted and all 'usual' personal appearance expectations remain in place.

### Face masks

**Advice from the government has changed since the Autumn Term:** *Staff and students in secondary schools and colleges are advised to wear face coverings in all areas, including classrooms, where social distancing cannot be maintained as a temporary extra measure.*

To avoid doubt and confusion we are **requiring all students and staff to wear face masks in all areas** including classrooms unless they are exempt. I hope this is time limited and after Easter we will not have to continue with this requirement. Following government advice, if we can continue to be cautious and sensible now it may speed up the end to these restrictions.

### Equipment

Stationery – we are now allowing students to bring in their own stationery – for their own use only. Students may also wish to bring in a water bottle and use a bag.

**In line with our policy, mobile phones cannot be used during school time unless permission is given by a member of staff to support learning.**

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## Curriculum

Since the beginning of this lockdown in January, we have worked hard to ensure students have received continuity through the curriculum. Lessons have been planned around the key threshold concepts, knowledge or skills that are relevant for the students' current topic and/or subject. The continuation of low-stakes testing and development of a range of strategies to regularly check for understanding has meant that lessons have remained sharply focused on the students' understanding with teachers adapting lessons where necessary. The nature of remote teaching has meant that teachers have focused on chunking learning into manageable steps, shared models of good examples and targeted questions to students that need support or stretching with their learning. Teachers will continue teaching according to their curriculum planning when we return in March. There will be no need to 're-teach' lessons taught throughout the lockdown, rather the emphasis is continuing to focus on key knowledge and skills with ongoing and embedded retrieval practice, low-stakes testing and spaced learning as an expectation.

## **After school activities**

As soon as is practical, we are looking to offer a limited range of after school activities. We will send more details out to you when we have them. In terms of their being no 'homework club' in the LRC (3.00 – 4.00pm) - if this is going to pose a significant issue please contact your child's Year Manager and we will look to support individual students if possible.

## **Visiting the Academy**

We are continuing to keep visitors to the Academy to a minimum and only essential visits will be allowed during the remainder of the Spring Term. To ensure we keep the Academy as safe as possible we will not be able to admit any parent/carer without pre-booking an appointment with the relevant member of staff. As always, Year Managers will have their mobile phones on them and will respond to emails.

As always, if you have a query don't hesitate to get in touch.

I look forward to seeing your child back at school next week.

Best wishes



Kevin Reynolds  
Executive Principal