



27th August 2020

Dear Parents/Carers,

Re: 'Ready, Set, Go!' (August 2020)

During the recent stormy weather over the past few days, I have been reflecting on the often 'stormy' times that schools across the U.K. have been navigating during August. Whether it be government u-turns relating to the awarding of examination grades or updated COVID-19 guidance, schools have been responding quickly in their local context to ensure that effective support is given to all young people.

During the summer, we have been continuing our site improvement works. We are reaching the final stages of completion for the front of school entrance and visitor car park area. Although longer lead in times for materials due to COVID-19 restrictions have extended the construction time, we look forward to this work being completed within the first few days of term. Construction has already started on the expansion of the Sixth Form T block. By half term, our Sixth Form students will enjoy studying in a centre that is twice its current size, with the sixth form café, 'Café6', being open for use. Our outdoor gym has doubled in size and is ready for use, having been personally tested by me!

The school buildings have been marked with one-way signs and 'keep left' markings have been placed in all corridors with arrows on all floors. Teaching rooms have been arranged with desks facing forwards with hand sanitisers being placed in all classrooms. The playing fields have marked for each year and the buildings have been zoned.

The Government recently issued new guidance around the use of face masks in schools for the start of term. We have always followed national guidance from the government. Our position before the summer was to allow staff and students to wear masks if they chose to do so. This is reflected in other Multi Academy Trusts around the City. From September, we will maintain our current position until either the national guidance from the government demands that students and staff wear masks in social spaces, or until a local lockdown dictates this. We will continue to monitor the use of the site and will be reviewing our risk assessments regularly to ensure students and staff are kept safe.

I look forward to welcoming all our young people back to school in September. We will all be helping our students 'come out of the starting blocks' well as we nurture their healthy mental wellbeing and ensure they have a positive start to the 2020/21 school year.

Yours faithfully,

Mr Chris Bishop (Headteacher)