



4 September 2020

Dear Parent

September update from the Head of School

This week we have seen all students in years 8,9,10,11 and 13 return to the academy and welcomed our new Year 7 students. Monday will see us welcome our new Year 12 students and I very much look forward to having all Carlton Academy students back in school.

Although, like all schools we are indeed operating in unique circumstances I am confident in the adjustments we have made as part of our reopening plans and would like to take this opportunity to congratulate all staff and students for getting to this week. The structures we have in place will be the new normal for now and whilst this means there are some restrictions in how we operate, we are open and working to provide the best offer we can. I have been extremely impressed with the approach that students have taken and the maturity they have displayed adjusting to our reconfigured spaces. It has clearly been an example of collective responsibility. Well done to all. As a polite reminder, facemasks are optional at all times for staff and students, and if you wish your child to wear them please ensure that they have a sealable plastic bag in which to put them when not being worn.

Uniform

At The Carlton Academy we have very high expectations regarding school uniform and equipment and expect all students to be in full school uniform and fully equipped for learning. Over the last week I am aware that there have been some delays with the uniform supplier that are outside of your control which have not only affected students in Year 7 but other years too. I have asked the House teams to contact all families who are still awaiting essential items of uniform and the supplier assures us that all orders will be processed though this may take a little time. We expect that all students will be in full uniform by 21 September and I would be very grateful for your support in ensuring this happens. We will challenge any other breaches of our school uniform in the normal way and again thank you for your support with this. As ever, our rules around make-up and piercings remain as they always have been and we ask that students do not come to school with visible make up, including nail varnish or false nails and that piercings are studs only to a maximum of one in each ear.

Approach to learning

We have high standards and expectations of all students. I ask that students attend school every day, on time, fully equipped, in full school uniform (including PE kit), work hard and have a positive attitude to learning. Students must have their full set of equipment with them at all times as we cannot share equipment. In terms of behaviour, I expect the highest of standards from all students. We will always challenge behaviour that is not at the level we expect and poor behaviour will be dealt with immediately.

Homework

Homework is an integral part of learning at The Carlton Academy for all students. The main strategy for homework is to support students in developing their independent learning skills and background knowledge. All students in years 7-10 will be given a Homework Booklet which will contain key learning tasks. Teachers will set tasks through Show My Homework in the Satchel One App. Year 7 students have been shown how to log into the App during tutor time today and been given parent log in details which we have asked them to bring home and show you how to install and log on in order to monitor and support your child with their homework.



Attendance

All students are expected to attend school every day. Please contact our attendance team should you have any reason for absence and they will speak to you.

Break and lunch time arrangements

As mentioned in previous communication there have been some slight adjustments to the break and lunch times and the spaces that can be used in order to minimise the mixing of students. Whilst we are not providing food to purchase at break we do have a lunch time offer for all students. We have been really impressed with how students have responded to the new structures, facilities and routines.

Payments for catering

As a polite reminder can I ask you to use the online Parent Pay method when adding money to your child's account if you are able to do so. This will save time and reduce the need for using shared devices. Please contact us if you need any information about how to do this. Also, if you think you may be eligible for Free School Meals please check on our website using the link <http://www.theacademycarlton.org.uk/applying-for-free-school-meals>

Parents coming onto school site

I would also like to remind you of our arrangements for parents on school site. No parents should come onto the school at any time unless it is to drop off or collect a student with accessibility issues who cannot meet you off site. Staff will continue to monitor this closely and we ask for your full support in the interests of everyone's wellbeing.

Site update

We are expecting the new building to be completed in early October that will see ten classrooms, a drama studio and a Sixth Form student centre opened. This will allow us to reduce the need to use temporary classrooms spaces and rooms that are smaller than we would normally use. We will update you on the progress in due course.

Please keep up to date with our school website for dates and information about forthcoming events. If you have any questions or queries please contact us at the school via office@theacademycarlton.org who will forward your email to the appropriate member of staff. We are here to help. For any queries relating to online payments please contact Ms Legore at B.Legore@theacademycarlton.org

On a final note, I would just like to say as Head of School it is great to be back and see our school fully open. This week, we as a school community have taken our first steps back to normality and we should not underestimate the sheer scale of this.

Thank you for your continued support.

Yours sincerely

Ms Egwuma
Head of School