



21 July 2021

Dear Parent/Carer,

The last sixteen months have been a considerable challenge and a steep learning curve for all of us. In my fifty years, I have never known or experienced a time like it as I am sure you will agree. Considering all the difficulties we have faced, I would like to pay tribute to our families and staff for the resilience and indomitable spirit they have shown, but especially to our students. Whilst there may yet be further challenges that lie ahead, and we cannot rule out that we may need to introduce Covid-19 control measures as and when required by the Government or local public health officials, it is our intention at this point to plan and prepare for as normal a school day and educational experience as possible for our students.

In light of the recent increases in positive cases and transmission rates locally, Hull City Council's Director of Public Health contacted all Principals in the City strongly advising them to keep in place their current risk assessments and Covid-19 control measures to combat increased infection in schools which, invariably, impacts upon the local community. Both the East Riding and North Lincolnshire local authorities advised a similar approach. This has meant that we have asked our students and staff to socially distance where possible, sanitise regularly and wear face coverings when in communal areas indoors, such as when in corridors, stair wells or queuing for food and drink. This is a temporary measure until test and trace procedures are fully in place and up to speed. **Please note that from the close of school tomorrow, The Academy will not be contacting parents and carers regarding contact tracing: that will revert to being carried out by NHS test and trace if students test positive.**

From September 2021, the school day will start and end at the same times as was the case previously, before the Covid-19 pandemic. However, there are changes to the structure of the day that differ from what your child has become used to over the last year. These changes have been made to revert to two morning break times in the refectory and to allow three lunch sittings which will create more space for students and reduce queuing times for meals; it will also provide a separate lunch sitting for our new Year 7 students which will help their transition from primary school and help them bond as a year group.

The changes to the Academy day are designed to accommodate the return of morning parades and a return to normality for our students.

Planned Academy Day From September 2021	
8.40am	Arrival at the Academy
8.45am	Whole Academy Parade
8.55am	Lesson 1
9.55am	Lesson 2
10.55am	Break/Tutor split <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Y7 & Y8 = 15-minute break followed by 20-minute tutor - Y9, Y10, Y11 = 20-minute tutor followed by 15-minute break - Y11 alternatives = Monday, Wednesday, Friday – break followed by tutor/Tuesday and Thursday – tutor followed by break
11:30am	Lesson 3
12:30pm	Lunch/P4 (3 way split 30 minutes for lunch) <p>Y9 & Y11 First Lunch</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - 12.30pm – 1.00pm Lunch - 1.00pm - 2.00pm Period 4 <p>Y7 Split Period 4</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - 12.30pm to 1.00pm – P4a - 1.00pm – 1.30pm – Lunch - 1.30pm to 2.00pm – P4b <p>Y8 & Y10 Last Lunch</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - 12.30-1.30pm Period 4 - 1.30pm – 2.00pm Lunch
14:00pm	Lesson 5
15:00pm	End of School Day – exit onto Charlotte Street Mews

As you will see, period 4 for year 7 will be split daily into two separate sessions: 4a (prior to lunch) and 4b (after lunch). This will allow us to ensure that Year 7 are able to have the earlier sitting and encourage the students to socialise, mix and bond with each other as a year group. This will hopefully increase their sense of well-being and help them adapt to our systems and ethos.

The main reason, as stated above, is to reduce the numbers of students accessing the canteen at the same time and thereby hopefully improve their experience and enjoyment of the school day.

End of Term Arrangements

The Academy will close for the summer holidays tomorrow, **Friday 23 July 2021 at 2.50pm**. Please take note, full attendance is compulsory. Normal teaching and learning will take place in the Academy right up until 2.50pm of the last day of term. All students are therefore expected to attend as usual and those students not in the Academy will be subject to our normal attendance team enquiries and home visits to establish if any missed sessions will be authorised or unauthorised.

Uniform and Hairstyles

We expect our students to attend looking smart, in appropriate uniform including correct footwear, sturdy black, polishable shoes with a cushioned sole, plain black socks and all students must bring their own equipment – pen, pencil and ruler, preferably in a pencil case. All hairstyles that are in keeping with the uniform policy as specified on the Academy’s website under information for parents. The admissions guidance on our website confirms what is shared with all students and parents/carers through the transition and enrolment process:

The length and style of hair is based firmly on the tradition of the armed forces and public services. Hair is to be of natural colour and an even length all over. It should be cut in the tradition of the ‘short back and sides’ meaning that hair should not be unkempt and be over the ears, eyes or collar. Hair should be neatly groomed in its natural state, and not altered by the use of products such as gel or wax.

As pointed out in my previous letters to parents and carers in the summer of last year, students who refuse to comply with (or ignore) the above expectations and have hairstyles that constitute extremes of fashion (for instance tram lines, hair sculpting and/or extreme contrasts or variations in length) may, at the discretion of the Principal or Vice Principal, be placed in detention or temporarily isolated until a meeting with parents or carers can be arranged to seek to rectify certain hairstyles deemed as being unacceptable and not in keeping with the above guidance. Parents and carers will be notified of the intention to temporarily put a student in seclusion for unacceptable hairstyles and a meeting will be sought to resolve the matter.

Further to this, I would like to reiterate that no jewellery is permitted and, in keeping with Delta Academies Trust’s Care Support Guidance and Behaviour Policy, mobile phones should be switched off and out of sight after entering the Academy premises. These items will be confiscated, if the rules are infringed, and returned to a parent or carer not the student.

Maintaining our Ethos, Standards and Traditions

The maintaining of the highest standards is crucial to our commitment to the values, traditions, and achievements of our past but is also key to ensuring we endeavour to be our very best as we move forward as an institution. I feel both proud and immensely privileged to see our students playing their part in keeping Hull Trinity House Academy’s heritage and traditions just as relevant now as they have always been. It is a rich and illustrious past that is kept alive by our pursuit of excellence and why we ask that parents and carers help us in maintaining our standards in the new academic year.

Cashless Catering

From 1st September 2021, our catering will no longer be contracted out and it will become an in-house provision. As part of this, we will move to a cashless catering system. This means that students will not have the facility to put money on their account as the machines will be disabled and will only show the amount on the account. Therefore, all money needs to be paid onto their account through **ParentPay**. If you do not have the log-in details for your child’s account, please email finance@hthacademy.rog.uk and they will email you the details. A reminder will be sent out towards the end of the summer holidays to remind of this change of policy.

Dates for your Diary

Please find attached a list of the dates of term for 2021-2022, further information regarding details of the events that we will be organising will be sent at the start of the next academic year.

September 2021 – start times

You may be aware that the Government has announced that all schools should test students prior to their return to the Academy in September. **We are currently working on a student testing timetable for this, and specific appointment times will be sent w/c 31st August 2021.** However, this will mean that all students will return in a staggered way on separate days starting from Wednesday 8th September 2021 to enable us to facilitate this safely. If you have previously given consent for your son/charge to be tested, then we will not request this information again. However, if we do not have approval, then this will be requested before testing dates. We would strongly encourage all students to be tested prior to their return.

Please find below the dates that students will be coming in for testing and whether they will be remaining in the Academy or returning the next day in line with Government guidance:

Year Group	Testing Date	Date for Return to Normal lessons
Y7	Wednesday 08.09.2021 - AM	Remain on site
Y11	Wednesday 08.09.2021 - PM	Return on Thursday AM
Y9	Thursday 09.09.2021 – full day	Return on Friday AM
Y10	Thursday 09.09.2021 – full day	Return on Friday AM
Y8	Friday 10.09.2021 - AM	Remain on site

On behalf of our Governing Body, the Academy Advisory Board, and my colleagues, I would like to take this opportunity to thank you for continued support and wish you a lovely summer holiday. Please do not hesitate to contact me at the Academy should you wish to discuss any aspect of this letter or any other matter.

Yours sincerely,

Graham Moffatt
Principal
Hull Trinity House Academy