



23<sup>rd</sup> September 2020

Dear Parents & Carers,

Thank you for your continued support in helping all children return to Rivers Academy safely over the past month, it has been wonderful seeing our community reunite. It has been fantastic welcoming back students in Years 8-13 and also welcoming Year 7 to their new school. Year 7 are already impressing us with their hard work and engagement in learning.

We will update you later in this letter regarding Health and Safety in the current climate, but first we are keen to share with you some of the amazing learning taking place day to day for your children in our Academy which is thriving. We are proud of Rivers Academy students who are already making an incredibly strong start to the academic year. We are absolutely committed to providing the best education possible for your child, while securing the health and safety of our whole Academy community.

### Curriculum update

In many subjects, we have further broadened our curriculum and teaching to help children understand global events. For example, in **science**, Year 10 are studying different diseases, how they are transmitted and how disease is prevented, enabling them to understand and discuss the current pandemic. Their studies delve into how our bodies react to and attack infections, as well as the journey of how scientists discover medicines and vaccinations.

Students are following a series of **pastoral sessions** to build upon their one to one meetings to support their mental wellbeing and re-integration to the Academy. All staff in our Academy have undertaken trauma informed practice training to support students as they return. The new Public Health England (PHE) [Better Health – Every Mind Matters campaign](#) provides NHS-endorsed tips and advice to help children and young individual's mental wellbeing, and equip parents and carers with the knowledge to support them. Additional resources can be found on our website.

In **maths**, students have made an excellent start to term, with Year 7s in particular impressing us with their confident work with strange number systems. In Year 10 maths for example students are about to start studying standard form next week, allowing them to appreciate and describe the idea of scale: from the most microscopic to the vastness of the universe.

**Art** lessons have seen students explore both 2D and 3D, they are complementing their investigations by researching historical and contemporary Artists in order to develop a wider understanding of context. Students are enjoying being able to make use of the extensive facilities for all media, including a traditional Photography darkroom and a mac suite.

In **performing arts**, it has been inspirational observing students enjoy making the most of learning a range of instruments at Key Stage 3. This includes keyboards, ukuleles, music technology and developing vocal



skills. Students have been eager to make use of our practice rooms and a studio; we have really missed the sound of students enjoying learning with drum kits, our wide range of guitars and mac suite.

Within our **modern foreign languages** department, our Year 11 Spanish students have been learning about the customs and traditions of the Hispanic world through the medium of festivals which has generated a real buzz and appreciation of other cultures and application of language in real life. Year 7 have started their secondary Spanish journey by learning about the extensive Hispanic world and are exploring how Spanish links with other subjects such as art, food, history, geography, music to name a few. Year 10 students have spent time discussing transferable skills which come from learning another language and the exciting futures which learning Spanish can unlock for them.

Should you wish to explore further what your child is learning, please take a look at our website accessible at this [link](#).

## Health and Safety

As you are aware, we receive national announcements at the same time as yourselves; our mission is to keep you fully informed as soon as possible. All letters and guidance can also be found under the Latest Information tab on our website at:

<http://www.rivers-aspirations.org/650/latest-updates-letters-home-1>

Thank you also for talking through with your child the arrangements which are in place to safeguard all at the Academy as communicated in previous letters and in our Home School Agreement. They are clearly aware of the steps they need to take in order to ensure the safe return of all students to the Academy and we are incredibly proud of how well they have settled into new routines and Learning Zones. Our Risk Assessment can be found on our website at the following link:

<https://aatriversacademy.s3.amazonaws.com/uploads/document/Covid-19-Rivers-Risk-Assessment-2020-09-08-v2.5.pdf?t=1600857759?ts=1600857759>

## What to do if your child develops symptoms of COVID 19

Thank you for continuing to follow public health guidelines and encouraging your children to do the same. **It is crucial that you do not send your child to the Academy if they have any symptoms of Coronavirus and that you book a test as soon as possible via the NHS link below. If you are in any doubt, please do contact us before sending your child to the Academy and we will be happy to help.**

The most common symptoms of coronavirus (COVID-19) are recent onset of:

- new continuous cough and/or
- high temperature
- a loss of, or change in, normal sense of taste or smell (anosmia)



If your child develops symptoms of COVID-19, they must remain at home for at least 10 days from the date when their symptoms appeared and you must arrange for your child to have a test as soon as possible to determine if they have COVID-19. To arrange a test, please use the following site link:

<https://www.nhs.uk/conditions/coronavirus-covid-19/testing-and-tracing/>

All other household members who remain well must stay at home and not leave the house for 14 days. The 14-day period starts from the day when the first person in the house became ill. Household members should not go to work, school or public areas and exercise should be taken within the home.

If your child is isolating, we will provide learning activities for them through Google Classroom so they can continue with their education whilst isolating.

If your child tests negative, before sending them back to the Academy, please let us know so we can make arrangements to help settle them back in.

If your child or anyone in the household does develop symptoms, you can seek advice from NHS 111 at <https://www.nhs.uk/conditions/coronavirus-covid-19/check-if-you-have-coronavirus-symptoms/> or by phoning 111.

### **Remote learning in the future in the event of any partial closure**

As you can imagine, we have been planning comprehensively for any possible instruction by Public Health England that a group of students must remain at home. In this instance, we will action our Remote Learning Plan in order to ensure that all students have access to work and are in regular communication with their class teachers and their Transition Mentors. In addition to this, curriculum summaries for all year groups can be found on our website as usual for you to see the exciting topics being currently studied.

**In the event we need to contact parents with an urgent message regarding the Coronavirus or any other important message, we use the School Gateway System to text or email, therefore please register your details at [schoolgateway.com](http://schoolgateway.com) and advise the Academy if your details change.**

Thank you for your support in these challenging times. Please remember to follow both the Academy's and Public Health guidance to keep everyone learning safely.

Yours sincerely

**Andria Singlehurst**  
**Principal**