

15th June 2021

Dear Parents/Carers

I am writing to update you on arrangements for the remainder of the Summer term and to follow up my letter to parents and carers on 14th May 2021 regarding our plans at Heath Lane Academy from Monday 21st June.

Throughout the pandemic our priority as a community and as a school has remained on keeping us all safe and ensuring our young people receive the best education possible. This year, with your support, we have adapted to working in bubbles, to remote learning and to changes in our working routines in school. The superb response of our staff and pupils have allowed us to keep up with our curriculum, make superb progress and stay as safe as possible in the circumstances. It has been a huge effort from our whole community and we remain aspirational about what we can achieve when we all work together. We continue to look for ways to give the young people in our community the best chance to succeed and ensure Heath Lane Academy is at the heart of our communities' recovery from the pandemic.

When I wrote to parents and carers in May we proposed to move back to teaching in faculties and delivering more lessons in our specialist facilities. We had also proposed to realign the timings of the school day. This move was conditional on the local and national situation regarding Covid.

Following our return to school after half term we have had three confirmed Covid cases at Heath Lane Academy which have required a small number of pupils and staff to self-isolate. Our local situation, along with the context of rising cases nationally and the pausing of the Government Roadmap, announced by the Prime Minister on Monday, means the Covid situation is very different to the trend we saw before half term, when we proposed our changes. This rapid change in the situation is similar to what has happened at several stages in the pandemic. Each time the local and national situation has changed we have reviewed our position, our risk assessment and the measures we have in place. Our position at all times has been based on keeping everyone in our community as safe as possible and this will remain our position until the pandemic is over.

Therefore, having reassessed the benefits and the risks of moving back to teaching in faculties and specialist spaces, we will **persist with our current 'Year bubbles', working in our designated zones of the school with our current staggered timings of the school day for each Year bubble**. Bus journeys and travel to school should continue at the current times. If you have any queries about this please contact the school email address in the first instance.

If you have any questions about this update, please contact the school email address in the first instance officestaffhla@midlandat.co.uk. Throughout this year the support of our parents, carers and our community has been superb. We will continue to work together to keep our community safe and to provide the best possible education for our young people. Thank you for your continued support.

Yours sincerely



Mark Trimmingham
Principal

PRINCIPAL: Mr Mark Trimmingham MA(Ed), BSc (Hons)

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