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**The ATAM Academy**

Little Heath, Off Barley Lane,

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Email: [info@atamacademy.com](mailto:info@atamacademy.com)

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## **Back to School Summary**

We are looking forward to welcoming all students back, full time in September. In this communication I have outlined the finer details of the reopening and I am pleased to share with you the following details of how Atam Secondary will function on your child's return. Please do take time to read the document carefully and it will be useful to keep it to one side, ready to refresh yourself and your child before the return.

The Government have stated that on 11<sup>th</sup> August, they will make a final announcement around the schools reopening. We are not expecting any major changes, but on or just after this date, it would be prudent to check the school website and Parentmail. Any important messages will be shared in this way.

The school office and email system will be closed for the majority of the summer. Although some staff will be working from home for part of the summer break, please do not expect any response until the 2<sup>nd</sup> September. Google Classroom will also remain unused until September.

Students will all start in their new classes on 2<sup>nd</sup> September. We are aware that this will cause anxiety with some children and so to help alleviate this, teachers produced a welcome video for all students in all year groups. Please see the links here to watch the videos:

Year 7

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=ArR63f3Bq8c&t=437s>

Year 8

<https://classroom.google.com/u/0/c/Nzk5Mzg1MDE4OTha/p/MTM3NjYyNzM4NjM5/details>

As we have not been able to host our induction programme as usual for new Year 7s, *Meet the Teacher* will be run in the autumn term. We would also like to connect with our parents of Year 8 students so that we can discuss the year ahead that your child will experience.

More information will be sent in September regarding the format of this and when they will take place.

## **Bubbles**

**All students will now be in class Bubbles.** In the secondary building, the Year 7s will be housed on the second floor and the Year 8s will be housed on the third floor. All creative subjects where year groups are on rotation on specific days will be located on the ground floor. There will be no mixing of year groups in September. Students will be taught in the

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same room and teachers will go to them to teach. All exercise book, textbooks and stationery will remain in their classroom. They will be provided with sanitisers and wipes. Lunch and break times will still need to be carefully managed and staggered. There will be no mid-morning snack available so students are encouraged to bring in a healthy snack from home. Lunch and snacks brought from home must be fully vegetarian. If you are unsure, please refer to our website where the details of what students can and cannot bring into school to consume is explained in detail. Hot and cold lunch will be served freshly everyday and students must top up their cards to purchase the food and drinks. All students will be shown how to do this. In the first week, we will be sorting out student ID cards and so would prefer students to bring in a packed lunch until their cards are ready. Anyone who does not bring in their own lunch, any charges will be added to your child's lunch card. Children who receive free school meals will be provided with lunch. Students will need to sanitise hands before and after breaks. Unfortunately, there will be no daily whole school acts of Worship together but all key secular and non-secular messages will be streamed daily in classrooms.

Within the class Bubbles, there will no longer be the requirement for strict social distancing between children, although hygiene guidance will still be followed and no physical contact permitted.

It is advised that all desks should be faced forward in order that the 'breath zone' sharing is limited, when students talk. Guidance suggests that most students should be seated at forward facing desks, sat side by side, with distancing.

Adults will need to keep to social distancing guidance when possible, and will still be asked to limit close contact with the children.

The Local Authority have helpfully clarified that there are **three key protective measures** that schools must take. Where one measure cannot be adhered to strictly, then one or both other measures should. These measures are:

1. Bubbles – keep groups of children separate/not mixing
2. Hygiene – extra hand washing, cleaning, sanitizers, catch it-kill it-bin it
3. Distancing – 1m+ wherever possible. Staggered break times.

We will continue to ensure that cleaning in the building; classrooms, toilets and any open spaces is regularly undertaken during the school day.

### **Online Learning – Plan B**

If there is another national or more likely, a local lockdown, then school will revert to providing online learning through **Google Classroom**. It is likely we will also use this platform to set and check homework during the year.

If a Class Bubble has to isolate then these children will revert back to learning online, via Google Classroom. This will also be the case for any student who is shielding.

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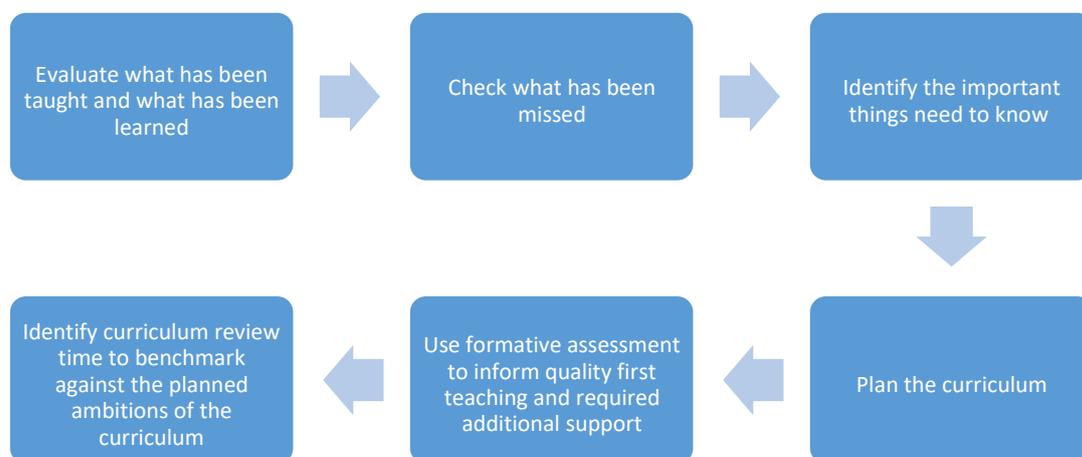
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## **Curriculum Offer**

During the first few weeks of term, teachers will capture what students have learned through on-site education, the remote learning offer, and what has been achieved at home. We know that students keep on learning even when they are not taught. Some students will have gone beyond expectations because of the activities they have carried out at home and there will be some students who have struggled to complete any work. The school will be following this model:



The school will be continuing with its curriculum plans but these will need to be adapted, particularly in the autumn term, to ensure priority is given to the core subjects to support any catch up required by students.

Our continued review of our curriculum plans includes having clarity over the things we want students to learn - to teach the key concepts that they need to know to achieve end of year targets. To support this, we are identifying where subjects may be linked, or where knowledge is transferrable across the curriculum.

Interventions will be provided where needed for individual and groups of students. As with our summer term curriculum offer, we will continue with our emphasis on rebuilding relationships and supporting wellbeing of all students and staff.

There is little evidence as yet of the impact on mental health due to the coronavirus - the missed time from work, education and loved ones. So at Atam Academy we will continue to allow space within our school week to explore any concerns and give necessary support. After all, without emotional well-being students are unable to work to the best of their academic ability.

It is now more than ever that Atam Academy's nurturing community (inside and outside of school) need to demonstrate strength and compassion in order to help students thrive once more.

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## **Student Requirements**

### **Uniform**

Students are expected to wear normal school uniform.

Although we no longer need to request that the children wear clean uniform each day, we do advise that personal hygiene be strictly monitored to prevent cross contamination of germs.

### **PE**

Students will be asked to come in to school in their PE kits, on their PE days with Mr Passey. This will be on Tuesday for Year 7 and Wednesday for Year 8.

### **Equipment**

Students must limit what they bring to school. A pencil case to leave in school is required. A coat and a clear water bottle should be the only items to come back and forth from school. Their mobile phone will be taken in at the start of the day and returned to them at the end of the day.

Lunchboxes made of washable fabric or plastic are also advised.

## **Behaviour**

Our behaviour policy is still applicable. However, there will be one important alteration specific to the Covid-19 response and the need for social distancing:

Purposeful ignoring of social distancing rules, resulting in students engaging in physical contact or play, will result in one warning. If there is a repeat of the behaviour, the student will be given time out in isolation for a short period and spoken to by a relevant adult. If after this the behaviour continues, the parents will be contacted and the student will be sent home. If on return to school the next day the behaviour continues, they will be excluded for the period of 1 school day.

We do not want to be hard on the students and will positively encourage social distancing rather than reprimanding.

## **Attendance**

DFE guidance states:

School attendance will be mandatory again from the beginning of the autumn term. This means from that point, the usual rules on school attendance will apply:

- parents' duty to secure that their child attends regularly at school where the child is a registered student at school and they are of compulsory school age;
- schools' responsibilities to record attendance and follow up absence

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- the availability to issue sanctions, including fixed penalty notices in line with local authorities' codes of conduct

Where a student is unable to attend school because they are complying with clinical and/or public health advice, schools are expected to immediately offer them access to remote education. Schools should monitor engagement with this activity.

Where a student is unable to attend school because parents are following clinical and/or public health advice, absence will not be penalised. All other students must attend school.

### **First Aid**

Please do not send a child to school with any symptom of Covid-19. This can be anything from mild cold symptoms, to upset tummy and a rash or indeed the most prevalent symptoms of persistent dry cough and high temperature.

In the event of your child becoming unwell at school, they will be taken to the First Aid rooms which are located on every floor and will wait there until they can be collected from reception. They will need collecting as quickly as possible. The supervising adult is required to wear a disposable apron, gloves and facemask.

If a child cuts themselves or has an injury, we will administer first aid but taking the additional precautions of:

- Adults will need to wear disposable gloves, apron & mask if a wound needs attending. If possible, we shall ask students to clean and dress their own wounds (put on a plaster).
- For bumps, a disposable ice pack will be given.

We will continue to be kind and nurturing towards the students, but are unable to offer physical reassurance or comfort at this time.

### **Covid -19 Symptoms**

#### **Suspected case**

If a student or adult is ill and they display symptoms similar to Covid-19, Schools must:

- wear PPE when dealing with the student/staff
- isolate the student/staff to a dedicated space
- contact home for staff/ student to be collected. Staff and students must not come into the school if they have symptoms, and must be sent home to self-isolate if they develop them in school
- parent/ individual – book a test: online via NHS testing system or Call NHS 119

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- all children can be tested, including children under 5, but children aged 11 and under will need to be helped by their parents/carers if using a home testing kit Test returns as negative:
  - inform the school immediately.
  - if the test is negative and if student/staff member feels well and no longer have symptoms similar to coronavirus (COVID-19) then they can stop self- isolating.
  - they could still have another virus, such as a cold or flu – in which case it is still best to avoid contact with other people until they are better. - other members of their household can stop self-isolating.

Test returns as positive:

- inform their school immediately
- individual must isolate for at least 7 days from the onset of their symptoms

They can return to school only if they do not have symptoms other than cough or loss of sense of smell/taste. These symptoms can last for several weeks after the infection has gone.

The 7-day period starts from the day when they first became ill. If they still have a high temperature, they should keep self-isolating until their temperature returns to normal. Their household should self-isolate for the full 14 days from when the symptomatic person first had symptoms, following 'stay at home: guidance for households with possible or confirmed coronavirus (COVID-19) infection'

Any positive result will be shared with the child/adults Bubble who will all be asked to self-isolate and seek testing. The Bubble will only return to school once the period of 14 days self-isolation (from the last date they were in contact with the infected person) has ended, or a negative test result has been given.

Best wishes,  
Mrs Piesse

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Piesse'.

Executive Headteacher

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### Links to Government Guidance

<b>Title of Guidance</b>	<b>Link</b>
School attendance: guidance for schools	<a href="https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/schoolattendance">https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/schoolattendance</a>
Guidance for full opening: schools	<a href="https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/actions-forschools-during-the-coronavirus-outbreak/guidance-for-full-opening-schools">https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/actions-forschools-during-the-coronavirus-outbreak/guidance-for-full-opening-schools</a>
Government launches NHS Test and Trace service	<a href="https://www.gov.uk/government/news/governmentlaunches-nhs-test-and-trace-service">https://www.gov.uk/government/news/governmentlaunches-nhs-test-and-trace-service</a>
COVID-19: guidance for households with possible coronavirus infection	<a href="https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/covid-19stay-at-home-guidance">https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/covid-19stay-at-home-guidance</a>
What parents and carers need to know about early years providers, schools and colleges during the coronavirus (COVID19) outbreak	<a href="https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/whatparents-and-carers-need-to-know-about-early-yearsproviders-schools-and-colleges-during-the-coronavirus-covid-19-outbreak">https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/whatparents-and-carers-need-to-know-about-early-yearsproviders-schools-and-colleges-during-the-coronavirus-covid-19-outbreak</a>
Supporting your children's education during coronavirus (COVID-19)	<a href="https://www.gov.uk/guidance/supporting-your-childrenseducation-during-coronavirus-covid-19">https://www.gov.uk/guidance/supporting-your-childrenseducation-during-coronavirus-covid-19</a>
Guidance for parents and carers on supporting children and young people's mental health and wellbeing during the coronavirus (COVID-19) pandemic	<a href="https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/covid-19guidance-on-supporting-children-and-young-peoples-mental-health-and-wellbeing/guidance-for-parents-and-carers-on-supporting-children-and-young-peoples-mental-health-and-wellbeing-during-the-coronavirus-covid-19-outbreak">https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/covid-19guidance-on-supporting-children-and-young-peoples-mental-health-and-wellbeing/guidance-for-parents-and-carers-on-supporting-children-and-young-peoples-mental-health-and-wellbeing-during-the-coronavirus-covid-19-outbreak</a>
Staying alert and safe (social distancing)	<a href="https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/stayingalert-and-safe-social-distancing">https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/stayingalert-and-safe-social-distancing</a>
COVID-19: guidance on shielding and protecting people defined on medical grounds as extremely vulnerable	<a href="https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/guidanceon-shielding-and-protecting-extremely-vulnerable-persons-from-covid-19">https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/guidanceon-shielding-and-protecting-extremely-vulnerable-persons-from-covid-19</a>
Coronavirus outbreak FAQs: what you can and can't do	<a href="https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/coronavirusoutbreak-faqs-what-you-can-and-cant-do">https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/coronavirusoutbreak-faqs-what-you-can-and-cant-do</a>

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