



Principal's Weekly Update

Friday 4 September 2020

Welcome

Dear Parents/Carers and Students,



After a long time preparing and planning it was a delight to welcome back our Year 6, Year 7 and Year 12 pupils and students this week. Without them the buildings have felt empty and cold so it has been an absolute delight to see the life return the Academy. We are looking forward to Monday when all pupils and students will return.

An extra special welcome to those of you who, like myself, are new to the John Wallis Church of England Academy. I am sure you will feel the friendliness and warmth of this community and find yourself settled in within no time at all.

I would like to say a very special thank you to all of the staff at the Academy for the

amount of hard work and preparation that has gone in to the re-opening plans. A large number of staff have worked throughout the summer period in preparing the building, resources and lessons.

This week I spoke to pupils and students about 'uncertainty' and the opportunity it provides. *'When nothing is certain, anything is possible'*.

We will be there supporting, guiding, teaching... but they must take that opportunity. They must commit to excellence.

I look forward to Monday when we will be a full Academy once more.

Thank you for your ongoing patience and support

Mr. Damian McBeath
Principal

“Trust the wait.
Embrace uncertainty.
Enjoy the beauty of becoming.
When nothing is certain,
anything is possible.”

Mandy Hale



97%

Attendance

There has been a lot in the media about the re-opening of schools with many broadcasters stating that schools were unsure about the numbers of families and students who would return in early September. I am delighted to report that more than 97% of students returned to school on our first day back. This is an incredible turn out. Thank you.

Pupil Voice

"I was nervous but really happy to be here. Excited to make new friends and meet new teachers."

Zuzanna Bielawski - 7PWA



Pupil Voice

"Bit nervous about starting but feel good and enjoyed my new days. I like the teachers I have met so far." Jacob Large - 7KSA

"It wasn't what I was expecting but really enjoying it. All the teachers are really nice. I thought it was going to be intimidating but it's really good." Jessica Mensah - 7KMK



Message from Leadership

Year 7 have been welcomed back with great enthusiasm. Yesterday saw our new Year 7s spring through the gates, and become part of the John Wallis Academy family. The new Year 7s had not had any Transition, nor had they stepped in the Academy since the Open Evening back in October, and yet every child had a smile on their face and were ready for this next stage of their educational journey. Over the past two days, they have seen the changes that are in place at break and lunchtime, the new one-way systems, and have greatly enjoyed eating in the Restaurant and new conservatory. They are now looking forward to starting their learning journeys next week. Ms Katie Walton, Assistant Principal

Updates

There are a few small amendments to the risk assessment this week regarding the wearing of PPE and local lockdowns.

Regarding the use of PPE in lessons

- Visors will be worn where we are unable to maintain a distance of 2m between staff and students for extended periods of time (specifically in practical lessons such as Hair and Beauty, Food Technology or Design and Technology)

Tiers of Lockdown

- We have made arrangements for the continuous provision of education, this will be uploaded to the COVID-19 update page of the school website on Monday 7th September.



Meet the teacher

We have a number of new staff joining us this year. We thought we would share a little bit about them so you can get to know the team.

Dr Rai, Teacher of Science and Tutor for Year 7, has joined us after taking a career break and studying for a PhD. Welcome to Dr Rai.

Parent voice

"Thank you to all members of the Academy team who have worked incredibly hard to allow the pupils and students to return to school in September safely." Mrs Paine



Local update COVID-19

Ashford

2 cases per 100,000 people in the latest week 24 Aug-30 Aug.
The average area in England had 9.

(source Department of Health and Social Care, via BBC.co.uk)