



## MacIntyre Academies Discovery Academy

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16<sup>th</sup> July 2020

Dear Parents and Carers

**Congratulations and thank you**, we have all reached the end of the strangest school year in living memory. It has been a really tough time for many of us involved in Discovery, staff, students and families alike. We should all be very proud of what we have achieved and the way that we have supported each other. On line communication has been extremely beneficial and it has been really good to see so many students, especially our "September starters", in classrooms and playgrounds over the last four weeks.

We are hopeful that school will return to normal in September. We certainly expect all students to be back full time working in their classes of around 9 with 4 staff. We will do what is best for Discovery, following national, local and trust advice. All steps will be taken to ensure minimal chances of contamination and provide maximum hygiene.

We are closing down the Teams app over the summer as it needs to be moderated.

If you need support over the summer please contact the school switchboard or Lorraine or Anna. Lorraine is on 07377 863354 and Anna 07508 674854

A few key dates for you:

Tuesday 1<sup>st</sup> and Wednesday 2<sup>nd</sup> September are staff training days; class teams will be available from 8.30 and 10.30 on the 2<sup>nd</sup> to answer any phone calls.

ALL students return Thursday 3<sup>rd</sup> September; 8.40 (ish) and the school day finishes at 3.15 as usual. Taxi companies are aware but you may want to check directly with them on the Tues / Weds before.

The first parent/ carer evening of the year is our "How have I settled?" evening on Tuesday 13<sup>th</sup> October between 4.00 and 6.00pm.

The half term ends at **3.15 on Thursday 22<sup>nd</sup> October**.

Overleaf we have provided answers to some recently asked questions.

Everyone here wishes you all a safe and happy summer.

Matthew

### **How do I access the site on foot?**

There are pedestrian gates at each vehicle gate, they have an intercom to reception. At the end of the day, in particular, it is much safer to use the pedestrian gate than try and “nip through” the vehicle exit gate so please do keep yourselves safe by doing this.

### **Can I bring my snails to school?**

We do allow pets on site when they are risk assessed, relevant to learning and “contained”. The Trust Board have enforced a NO Dogs status on the site as we have Ruby here permanently. This includes at the front of school when dropping off or collecting. If you use the journey to school to walk your dog please remain with them on the pavement by the upper pedestrian gate rather than coming onto site.

### **How do I get a message to the class team?**

Each class team, has their own class mobile phone so can always receive texts and calls. They may not answer straight away but will return calls after 3.15. Anything that is urgent can also be phoned into the office. All school mobiles are secure on site over the summer and hence will not be answered before 1<sup>st</sup> September. If there is an emergency please ring the main switchboard number – see below.

### **Are you open over the summer?**

We are open for some contractor works but given the new levels of cleaning needed when the site is used the majority of staff who are working will work from home. This means the main switchboard may not be answered, but do leave a message as it will be checked.

### **What shoes and trousers are allowed as uniform?**

We encourage all students to wear school uniform as it helps with identity and cohesion. Purple polo shirts and black hoodies are easily obtained via school or the school wear centre in Nuneaton. Students in years 10 and above are able to wear a grey polo shirt, with logo, rather than purple.

Trousers and shoes should be black and we are far more flexible on “style” than many other settings. Jogging bottoms and jeans are allowed, as are tailored shorts. We don’t want children to have any kind of sensory load from the clothes they wear. Shoes can be formal or trainers or anything in between.

### **Can I bring my phone to school?**

We know that phones are often seen as essential and provide a range of services to children and young people. Our practice is that phones are kept by class teams during the working day so that they remain charged and useful for journeys back home.

The main reason we don’t allow students to have phones in school is because of the cameras that are on them and we have a number of staff and students who have expressly indicated they do not want their photographs taken for risk of sharing.

### **Can I bring gaming devices, a tablet, my tech to school?**

The expectations are as with phones so please see above. Again this is driven by safeguarding as these devices can capture data that we cannot always monitor and may also have cameras.

### **“Tech use” as we transition back post Covid.**

This September, in particular, we think it will be harder for some to “give up” their phone as it will not only have been used over the 6 week holiday but also far more in the restrictions before that. We are committed to being as flexible about device-use as we can safely be for the first two weeks of term in order to support all children to transition back to patterns of behaviour and self-regulation that are safe and appropriate for school. From Monday 14 September, however, we will expect that no personal phones or other devices are used in school and that they are given in to be looked after by class teams during the working day.