



MacIntyre Academies Discovery Academy

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3rd March 2021

Dear Parents and Carers

Thank you all for your continued support for your sons and daughters as we chart our way through the uncertainty and strangeness of these times.

As you know the government has indicated that all mainstream schools should be open as normal from next Monday; there is precious little information for specialist settings such as Discovery. As a Senior Leadership Team we judge that to return to full hours for all Children and Young People on one day would be too stressful. Therefore, with support from our CEO and Chair of LAB, we want to maintain our core hours as 9.30 – 2.00 for at least the next two weeks. However, we can provide support between 9.00 and 3.00 if needed and want our main message to be that we want as many CYP to be on site for as much of each school day as possible. Some of this will, of course, be transport dependent when taxis are shared. Lorraine (07377 863 354) and the taxi companies have done a brilliant job in making it all work so far but there can be no guarantees. We hope everyone will be able to be here for the full day each time they are on site

Put simply:

- We want to maintain the effective reduction in anxiety of staff and CYP by keeping our slightly reduced hours, additional hygiene routines and a simple structured timetable.
- Therefore we will have our CYP on site from 9.30 -2.00 as we cannot currently offer a full offsite provision (e.g. PE, Forest Schools at Hartshill Hayes), enhance the curriculum with additional specialists on site (e.g. Instruments) or use all rooms (e.g. Soft Play Class D only).
- Continue to work within our 5 bubbles:
Class D KS2 Classes I S C Lower KS3 Classes E R Upper KS3
Classes X Y Lower KS4 Classes O V P16 Upper KS4 and KS5
- We will further enhance the 1-1 relationships and additional time invested into individuals when we have had smaller numbers on site so far this term.
- We will deliver wellbeing daily using structured sessions – this will include: Coaching, Reflection and Target Review

There will be 3 review dates in the weeks beginning 15th March, 29th March and 19th April; after which parents and carers will be contacted to see what provision is required for the next block of time and told if core hours are increasing (see over).



Putting children and families first





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There are 3 stages to reverting to a school full day (as more facilities become available in line with national “unlocking”). These are extend our finishing time to 2.30; revert to normal start time of 8.45; revert to normal finishing time of 3.15.

We will continue to conduct all CYP Lateral Flow Tests on site for you.

I hope that you can see the sense and reason in all this. We want to be proactive in supporting our CYP and not just drifting to Easter; we believe that this approach is the best for Discovery’s learning community.

Yours sincerely

Matthew



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