



Heart



Mind



Connect

Dear Parents/Carers,

I can hardly believe that it has been 17 weeks since the government shut schools to all but key workers. This has been the most challenging period I think that we will have ever experienced and there has been immense pain and tragedy for too many families and friends.

And despite this, there have been moments of hope. The way we have come together; students, staff and families has been nothing short of incredible and I have been so proud to be the Headteacher during this period. The outpouring of support for the NHS and key workers, the volunteering and community support has been amazing and then individual stories of people like Marcus Rashford who used their influence to feed thousands is nothing short of inspirational.

It is this feeling of hope and community that we must bring with us for September.

Y11

To the Y11s. I am sorry that this is end of your time with us. It is so cruel having had this time taken away from you and the right to a proper farewell. Hopefully, we will be able to see you and your families again, and when we are allowed to, we will be in touch to arrange a final goodbye.

For now, know this. You are all amazing.

It has been an emotional journey with you over the past five years full of highs and lows. You are leaving in the most uncertain way and yet I am still feeling so proud and optimistic for you all. You can change the world. You can make a difference no matter where you go and what you do. You will always be members of the Halifax Academy and you will take with you all the learning and memories you have made. Be proud of who you are and where you have come from and never let anyone tell you otherwise. Use your voice to stand up for what is right and to support those who aren't able to. Use your voice to challenge and never stop questioning those who tell you you're wrong. Use your voice to be you.

All of us at the Halifax Academy wish you all the best for the future and we know that we will be hearing of your achievements for years to come.

Primary

The Halifax Academy
Spring Hall Lane, Halifax HX1 4TW
T. 01422 430480
E. primary@thehalifaxacademy.org
Head of Primary: Richard Shaw



Secondary

The Halifax Academy
Gibbet Street, Halifax HX2 0BA
T. 01422 301080
E. office@thehalifaxacademy.org

Headteacher: Matt Perry, Chair of Governors: Dr Phil Shepherd



Heart



Mind



Connect

Results Day

Centre Assessed grades have been submitted for students in all subjects for which they were previously studying. These will now go through a process of standardisation at a national level, with the results released on GCSE Results Day, Thursday 20th August.

As with many things this year – we are having to change our plans. This year we will be having a virtual results day and we will be posting and emailing out results. We shall send more information about this in August.

Summer work and remote learning

Throughout lockdown, we have consistently evaluated our approach to remote learning. From September we are going to be moving to Microsoft Teams as our online learning platform. We feel this is a better platform to use with students and we will be integrating with our teaching. This will also be the platform that we will be using in the event of another lockdown or period where we cannot open fully to all students and where we will be hosting live lessons.

In order to prepare for this, we will be stopping using Google Classrooms so that we can focus on developing Teams. To support you and your children during the Summer, we will be sending some work packs home for them to complete. This work is designed to support student learning and begin to close any gaps that may have occurred during lockdown.

If you have any worries or questions about this then please contact your child's relevant class teacher in Primary or Progress Leader in Secondary.

Plans for September

With students having missed over six months of school, it is vital that we get all students back to full time education as possible. However, I am fully aware that many of you will still have worries and concerns about this. With so much uncertainty and worry, we are going to have a staggered start so that we can ease students back and get them familiar with the new routines in school. Should you have any worries about returning to school, please contact the relevant progress leader and we will aim to work with you and your family in September.

Throughout the Summer I will update you with our plans as, and inevitably, when they change. However, currently our plans are as follows:

Primary

The Halifax Academy
Spring Hall Lane, Halifax HX1 4TW
T. 01422 430480
E. primary@thehalifaxacademy.org
Head of Primary: Richard Shaw



Secondary

The Halifax Academy
Gibbet Street, Halifax HX2 0BA
T. 01422 301080
E. office@thehalifaxacademy.org

Headteacher: Matt Perry, Chair of Governors: Dr Phil Shepherd



Heart



Mind



Connect

Primary

- Thursday 3rd September – Year 6 and Year 2 only
- Friday 4th September – Year 5 and Year 3 only
- Monday 7th September – Year 4 and Year 1 only
- Tuesday 8th September – Year 6, Year 2 and Year 5 only
- Wednesday 9th September – Year 4, Year 3 and Year 1 only
- Thursday 10th September onwards – all year groups (except Reception) in full time.

If your child is attending for the first time in Reception you will receive a separate letter which details the date and time of the sessions that your child will be asked to attend.

Secondary

- Thursday 3rd - Y8
- Friday 4th - Y9,
- Monday 7th - Y10,
- Tuesday 8th - Y7,
- Wednesday 9th - Y11,
- Thursday 10th - Y7, 8 & 11,
- Friday 11th - 9 & 10,
- Monday 14th - Full school

The secondary school will be zoned into five zones that students will remain in for the day. Y7 will remain in the same zone all the time and the other year groups will move across the zones on different days. The zones have been constructed around the curriculum to allow all students the best possible experience.

Each year group will be allocated a zone for entering the school and each zone will have its own protocols to manage student and follow the hierarchy of controls required for good sanitary standards. As we are currently doing, each student will have to wash their hands on entry to the building and at different points during the day.

In order to best support learning and support hygiene – all students in secondary phase will be being given an equipment pack. This pack will contain all of their essential equipment they will need so that we will not have any risk of cross contamination. This pack will include a calculator and we will be asking for a £5 deposit for this. This can be paid through ParentPay and will be returned at the end of the year once the calculator has been returned. Should you have any questions about this then please contact your child's progress leader.

Primary

The Halifax Academy
Spring Hall Lane, Halifax HX1 4TW
T. 01422 430480
E. primary@thehalifaxacademy.org
Head of Primary: Richard Shaw



Secondary

The Halifax Academy
Gibbet Street, Halifax HX2 0BA
T. 01422 301080
E. office@thehalifaxacademy.org

Headteacher: Matt Perry, Chair of Governors: Dr Phil Shepherd



Heart



Mind



Connect

Curriculum changes

I would like to take this opportunity to thank all those families who have supported their children in home learning over the last 17 weeks – I fully appreciate this has not been an easy task. It is a real testament to you that students at the Halifax Academy are engaging with home learning at a far higher rate than nationally – almost double in fact. The examples of work and creativity that we have seen across both phases has been amazing.

On the 7th July, the government released further guidance both on the reopening of schools in September and what they expect the curriculum to look like for students next year. With this in mind, I would like to take this opportunity to outline how we will be adapting our curriculum to meet these proposals and best support your child's learning.

Primary

There will be a greater emphasis on reading, writing and Maths in September to identify and the close any gaps that may have occurred during lockdown. There will be an increase in the amount of reading sessions in particular.

Current Year 10

Year 10 students will also receive a GCSE grade for all subjects they were due to complete this year. For the majority of students, this will be in two subject areas.

Fortunately, our curriculum model is already designed to reduce the number of subjects students study in Year 11, so all students starting Year 11 in September will continue on the courses they have already begun, without the need to adapt their curriculum. The government has made a series of proposals with regard to exams next year. Whilst some subject areas will see altered examination formats, students returning in Year 11 should expect to sit a full range of examinations in June 2021.

Current Year 9

We have had to look very carefully at the courses being studied by all year 9 students, their level of attainment and progress in each subject. With two courses due to be completed in Year 10 we have reviewed the work that students have completed during lockdown and have taken the decision to reduce the number of subject entries for a small number of students who we feel will find it difficult to catch up on the learning time they have missed during lockdown. The majority of students will however continue on all the courses they have previously been studying.

Current Year 8

Primary

The Halifax Academy
Spring Hall Lane, Halifax HX1 4TW
T. 01422 430480
E. primary@thehalifaxacademy.org
Head of Primary: Richard Shaw



Secondary

The Halifax Academy
Gibbet Street, Halifax HX2 0BA
T. 01422 301080
E. office@thehalifaxacademy.org

Headteacher: Matt Perry, Chair of Governors: Dr Phil Shepherd



Heart



Mind



Connect

The Coronavirus outbreak unfortunately hit in the middle of the GCSE options process for Year 8. For the majority of students who had already submitted their form, they will be placed in courses of their choosing. However, we have not been able to run courses in all the subjects originally offered, so some students may find their timetable different to the options chosen. If they are unhappy with this, they should speak to their Form tutor or Progress Leader in the first instance.

Current Year 7

Students moving into Year 8 will receive a full provision of subjects as they would have done in a normal year.

Finally

I would like to also take this opportunity to let families know that Rob Gray (Deputy Headteacher) will be leaving us for pastures new in September. He has been at the school for 14 years and in that time has helped and inspired many thousands of students and helped to get the school to the position it is in now. I know you will join me in thanking him for his service and wishing him all the best for the future.

I hope that all of you are able to get a rest during the holidays and I look forward to seeing you all in September. I shall be in touch throughout the summer with updates and should you have any worries or concerns then please do email the school.

Take care, keep safe and have a peaceful summer.

Mr Perry

Primary

The Halifax Academy
Spring Hall Lane, Halifax HX1 4TW
T. 01422 430480
E. primary@thehalifaxacademy.org
Head of Primary: Richard Shaw



Secondary

The Halifax Academy
Gibbet Street, Halifax HX2 0BA
T. 01422 301080
E. office@thehalifaxacademy.org

Headteacher: Matt Perry, Chair of Governors: Dr Phil Shepherd