



Parent Communications

Date: 21 August 2020

Message from the Principal



Dear all,

Firstly a massive well done to all of our students receiving exam results this week and last. Not only were your results exceptional, your attitude throughout the whole lockdown has been amazing. You have really helped us to get through a logistically difficult year. I am confident that while we were rigorous you have received the results you deserve and I wish you all the best. We have included the press releases below if you haven't seen them, they are worth a glance.

We now need to turn our attention to getting everybody back safely. We are preparing in great detail as you can imagine. Our building really supports planning, so we feel fortunate in that sense. Within this bulletin I hope you find the answers to the many questions I'm sure you have.

There are going to be some compromises and we are going to have to remain flexible. The approach we are taking is to keep things very tight for the first two weeks then make adjustments as we go to improve things. At every stage the compromises we make are about keeping the school open and everybody within it safe. It will be a big moment for all of us but we are good at creating routines in schools and then we can start to work through the impact of the last six months on our students.

Preparing for September has been demanding, particularly on the senior team and the support staff. I'm really grateful to them for the time they have put in.

I hope you find most of the answers you are looking for below but as always feel free to get in touch.

Enjoy the last of the summer holidays. We are looking forward to getting everybody back in the building soon.

Take care,

Kieran

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Start of Term Details

We are really looking forward to welcoming back all our students and to welcoming our new Year 7s.

As communicated at the end of the Summer term, in order to facilitate an effective and safe return to the site for all students and staff, we will be staggering the start of term in September a little more than usual. This will help both students and staff adjust to and become familiar with amended timings and protocols that will be necessary in the short term. We have also decided to build in a midweek buffer for our new Year 7 students to support them with their first week of transition to the Academy.

Therefore, the start of the year will be staggered as follows:

Thursday 3 September - scheduled **INSET day** (Academy closed to students)

Friday 4 September - scheduled **INSET day** (Academy closed to students)

Monday 7 September - Academy open to Years 7 and 12

Tuesday 8 September -Academy open to Years 7, 10, 11, 12 and 13

Wednesday 9 September - Academy open to Years 8, 9, 10, 11, 12 and 13 (Year 7 not to attend)

Thursday 10 September - Academy open to **all students**

Friday 11 September -Academy open to **all students**

Guidance

We have been carefully monitoring the guidance updates for schools from both the government and West Sussex County Council and have been updating our plans and documentation accordingly.

Here are the links to our updated live [Risk Assessment](#) and full [Protocols for Full Reopening](#) document, with this bulletin also providing you with the key points relating to the start of term arrangements.

The most recent government guidance for parents can be found in full [here](#) and the WSCC guidance for parents can be found [here](#).

Amended day timings and arrival/departure arrangements for each year group

In line with the guidance and in a change from our usual ways of working, for the time being the Academy will be operating a year group model. As such, each year group has been allocated a specific gate to use and a specific set of doors to use to enter the building. It is important that all students only use the designated entrances and exits for their year groups. To be in line with the guidance, we have also staggered the starts and ends of the school day and full details are below. Breaks and lunchtimes will also be staggered and students will be given all the necessary information on their first day back.

At the start of each day, all students should enter through the allocated gate and door and head straight to their first classroom of the day for registration and period 1. Students in years 8-13 will be notified in advance of the start of term as to where their first lesson is. They will then receive their timetables and will be able to see from there where they should go at the start of each day.

To support their transition, for at least the first fortnight, Year 7 students will have 'line-ups' on the Brunel playground at the start of each day and after break and lunch until as a year group they are confident in finding their own way to their classes. Therefore at the start of their first day of their school year, year 7 should head to the Brunel playground - staff will be supporting and directing them.

At the end of the school day it is important that students leave the site promptly through their allocated door and gate and head straight home. Students who need to wait for a later transport option will be able to wait in their classroom or Chapter base before leaving the site - we'd recommend they use this time to complete homework or do some reading.

Below are full details of the start/end of day timings, gates and doors per year group.

Please note: it is important that students arrive as close as possible to their allocated start time as we are unable at the current time to provide year group bubble supervision before school.

| Year Group | Start of Academy Day | End of Academy Day | Gate to use for entering/exiting the site | Door to use for entering/exiting building |
|------------|----------------------|--------------------|---|---|
| 7 | 08:50 | 14:50 | South | Brunel |
| 8 | 08:40 | 14:55 | North | Lapper |

| | | | | |
|----|-------|-------|--------|----------------------|
| 9 | 08:45 | 14:45 | Middle | Nightingale |
| 10 | 08:35 | 14:40 | Middle | Mandela |
| 11 | 08:55 | 15:00 | South | Dickens |
| 12 | 08:55 | 15:00 | South | Sports Hall entrance |
| 13 | 08:55 | 15:00 | South | Sports Hall entrance |

Key Contacts

In line with the guidance, we will operate a year group model for the majority of day to pastoral and SEND queries from parents and student support. Please see the table below as to who the relevant contacts are for your child's year group chapter team.

| Year group | Chapter Head | Chapter Leader | PSO | SEND |
|------------|-------------------|-----------------------|------------------|---------------------------------|
| 7 | Mel English | | Viv Silverthorne | Carol Luxford |
| 8 | Mark Fox | Henri Heery | Claire Smith | Rachael Ellis |
| 9 | Simon Davies | Charlotte Earl-Novell | Kerry Ramshaw | Jill Cox |
| 10 | Eber Kington | | Sam Peach | Tony Ashby |
| 11 | Harry Scantlebury | Deb Barr | Val Westgate | Frances Speller Presley Geal |

Travelling safely on public transport and use of face coverings

The application of social distancing measures to public transport has caused a significant reduction in effective capacity, which provides a challenge in routinely transporting children and students to schools and colleges. Nearly half of all journeys made in the morning peak hour are made for education purposes, and with public transport capacity severely constrained, alternative travel options are required.

Where possible, children and young people are encouraged to avoid public transport, particularly at peak times, and to walk or cycle to school or college.

May we ask parents to all login to [Arbor](#) and update their transport information so that we can maintain accurate records on how students are making their way to the Academy. This assists with our planning and risk assessments.

Where a child relies on public transport to get to school or college, and cannot walk or cycle, the [safer travel guidance for passengers](#) will apply, as follows:

- washing or sanitising your hands regularly
- keeping your distance when you travel, where possible
- avoiding the busiest routes, as well as busy times like the rush hour

You should not travel at all if you:

- are experiencing any [coronavirus symptoms](#)
- are [self-isolating as a result of coronavirus symptoms or sharing a household or support bubble with somebody with symptoms](#)
- are [clinically extremely vulnerable](#) and live in an area where additional public health measures mean you have been advised to resume shielding
- have been advised by the [NHS test and trace service](#) that you should self-isolate

Where your child uses dedicated school or college transport (that is transport that does not cater for the general public), the guidance for public transport will not apply. Passengers should only sit within their own year group bubble, and measures will be put in place to ensure vehicles are cleaned regularly and boarding is managed.

Face coverings are required at all times on public transport (for children over the age of 11), and we request that these are also worn on dedicated school transport too.

Children and young people must wash their hands immediately on arrival at school or college, dispose of any temporary face coverings they may have been wearing in a covered bin, or place reusable face coverings in a plastic bag they can take home with them, and then wash their hands again before heading to their classroom.

Public Health England does not recommend the use of face coverings in schools. They are not required in schools as pupils and staff are mixing in consistent groups, and because misuse may inadvertently increase the risk of transmission.

Passengers should maintain a 2 metre distance where possible, because the risk of transmission is small at this distance. If a 2 metre distance cannot be maintained, the risks to yourself and others can be reduced by maintaining a 1 metre distance where possible, and taking suitable precautions.

Help keep yourself, other passengers and transport staff safe, by taking the following precautions:

- limit the number of people or households that you come into contact with, for example by avoiding the busiest routes, as well as busy times like the rush hour
- wash or sanitise your hands regularly
- use a face covering on public transport and in substantially enclosed areas of transport hubs
- avoid touching your face
- cover your mouth and nose with a tissue or the inside of your elbow when coughing or sneezing
- travel side by side or behind other people, rather than facing them, where seating arrangements allow
- touch as few surfaces as possible
- stay outdoors, rather than indoors, where possible
- minimise the time spent close to other people, where possible
- avoid loud talking, shouting or singing

- dispose of waste safely, including items such as used disposable face coverings
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You can find a copy of bus timetables here:

[Route 19 Shoreham Beach to SRWA Bus.](#)

[A and A Travel Private Charter Coach](#)

Uniform expectations

At SRWA we expect our students to wear their uniform with pride. From September 2020 students will again be wearing full Academy uniform at all times. Full details of our uniform expectations can be found on the Academy [website](#).

In the short term, on days when students have practical PE or Dance lessons they will be permitted to wear Academy PE/Dance kit to school. This is to minimise movement around the site and the use of changing room facilities.

This must be acceptable Academy kit and students are not permitted to wear any other PE/sports clothing. All hoods must remain down whilst on the Academy site and outdoor jackets/tops must not be worn in the building.

Equipment expectations:

In order to take part in all aspects of lessons, we ask that all students arrive at the Academy with the following equipment daily. Students are responsible for their own equipment and it is important that they do not assume they can share or borrow equipment. At the current time equipment cannot be shared and therefore students must bring with them everything they need for the day. Equipment and other personal resources such as drinking bottles should not be shared.

Students should have with them each day:

- a strong waterproof bag
- a pencil case
- a black pen and a spare pen or spare cartridges if using a fountain pen
- a green pen
- a whiteboard pen
- two pencils
- a pencil sharpener
- a 30cm ruler
- a rubber
- a pair of compasses
- a scientific calculator (Casio FX-83GTX is our recommendation)
- a protractor
- a set of coloured pencils/pens
- a glue stick
- a pair of scissors

In addition students will need to make sure they always have all the books they need for that day, so packing their school bag the night before is a really good routine to be in.

At the current time we also advise that if possible students bring their own small bottle of hand sanitiser to school for personal use. Regular handwashing will be encouraged and there are hand sanitiser stations across the Academy, however having their own in their bag will likely prove useful.

Lockers will be out of commission for the first half term as we organise them to be emptied and deep cleaned. Lockers will then be available to students in their year group areas after half term - students will need to bring in a strong padlock in order to use a locker.

Mobile phones and contacting students

We are sure we all agree that everyone has had more than enough screen time over the last few months and that now is the time for us all to safely re-engage with the real world. This is certainly true for our students and as they adjust to being back in the building, it is important that they are 'present' and engaging with all aspects of Academy life.

We therefore advise that students leave their mobile phones at home - they do not need them during the school day and as per our policy, mobile phones must not be seen or heard during school hours. If students do bring their mobile phone to school, they must remain switched off in their bags at all times once on site.

We'd also politely ask that you refrain from calling or messaging your child directly during the school day as this will help them rebuild their independence and confidence. If you do need to make immediate contact with your child, please do so via the school reception. Likewise, your children will be told that if in an emergency they need to speak to someone at home, they must speak to a member of staff and they will be supported.

Visiting the Academy

To minimise 'traffic' on the school site, we politely ask that you avoid dropping off items for your child or otherwise dropping in to the Academy without an appointment. If you need to visit the school site, we ask that you call reception to make an appointment with the relevant member of staff. Your assistance with keeping the site as secure and calm as possible is appreciated.

Lunch and use of the canteen

We are delighted to say that the canteen will be fully open and offering nutritious meals at a reasonable price. Each year group bubble will have a zoned area of the canteen and playground. Students bringing packed lunches are welcome to use the area of the canteen dedicated to their bubble.

Covid 19 Behaviour Policy Addendum

The safety of our students and staff is always our number one priority. To reflect some necessary changes to our usual behaviour protocols, a Covid 19 Behaviour Policy Addendum was written and shared with you during the lockdown period. This is currently being amended and finalised prior to our full reopening in September and will be shared with you and with students at the start of term.

IT for Year 7 Students

We are in the process of updating all the login details for our new year 7 students, so that they can access our academy IT resources as well as all our online tools such as Google Classroom, Google Mail etc.

These will be issued to students when they join the Academy, but we hope to also send these out to parents in advance so that students will have an opportunity to try to login to some of our online resources.

To support the use of our IT facilities, we will provide tutor sessions at the Academy as well as sharing video resources on our website.

Year 12 Enrolment Process

Congratulations again to all the exams success of our students. We have contacted all students now who have expressed an interest in joining W6 6th form at SRWA.

Please note that progression into year 12 is not automatic, so if your child is in year 11 and they have not completed an application or indicated that they are planning to attend, please get in touch with the 6th form team at W6@srwa.co.uk.

Further information will be shared directly with students about the details of our induction day on the 7th September, which will include key systems and processes in 6th form as well as guidance on keeping safe.

Exam Successes Press Releases.

Year 13 Exam Success: A-Level Results – August 2020

More Oxford success for SRWA students. In a challenging year, A-level students at W6 Sixth Form at the Sir Robert Woodard Academy excelled.

Students and staff at W6 Sixth Form at SRWA, a member of the Woodard Academies Trust, are today celebrating yet another set of great results. Despite the announcement of the cancellation of exams earlier in the year, we are delighted that there were numerous examples of excellent individual performance from our students.

These achievements are a source of pride for the Academy and they provide a strong foundation for further success for our students, with W6 students able to move on to excellent university placements all across the UK.

With news of students being downgraded across the country, it was pleasing to see so many of our students awarded the highest grades of A*, A and B.

More students than ever have undertaken A-level courses, however students on vocational courses also continued the trend of excellent results, with up to 50% of students in some qualifications awarded grades of Distinction and Distinction*.

Megan Porter was always on track to impress and she walked away with an A in French and an A in English Literature, sealing her place to study French at Oxford University. Megan has worked tirelessly since joining the academy in Year 7 and it is a product of her hard work, determination and talent that she has been able to follow in the footsteps of former SRWA students and study at one of the best universities in the world.

When asked about her achievements, Megan admitted she was apprehensive in the days leading up to the Results Day. When asked what she thought when she saw the email from UCAS and Oxford in her inbox, she said “I couldn’t believe it and I cried tears of relief”

All students studying French achieved an A grade. Lia Gillett scored an astounding A for her French A-level, and a B in English which secures her place to study Media Studies with a year abroad at the University of Kent.

A key strength for the Academy is in the Performing Arts specialism. A third of A-level Theatre Studies students achieved an A or A*. Not put off by Lockdown, SRWA Performing Arts students created countless online performances, including a full audio production of Star Wars Verily: A New Hope. Year 13 student, Oliver Chenery cut together audio recordings from fellow students for the Shakespearian version of Star Wars, and created animations to accompany the audio. With an A grade under his belt for the new Theatre and Drama A-level course, he is delighted to be moving on to study a BA in The Art of Visual Effects at Escape Studios in London.

With such strong results, many of our performing arts students are heading off to some of the best performing arts institutions in the country. Conor Howard has secured a rare place at the prestigious Royal Central School of Speech and Drama in London to study Technical and Production Management. Heather Rycraft, an aspiring actress, scored an A* and is off to the Royal Holloway to study Drama and Theatre.

English Literature results were once again strong, with a third achieving an A* or A. Students worked tirelessly, working with challenging texts in the lead up to Lockdown.

In Philosophy and Ethics over 60% of students achieved top grades of A*- B.

Our students' achievements have once again opened the doors to many of the country's best universities. The range of courses to which students have been accepted this year is impressive, including our first female Architecture student, Grace Kirpal. With an A in Art in her pocket, she is ready for the creative demands of a vibrant and dynamic industry. Other courses include Geophysics, Ocean Science and Marine Conservation, Medieval History, Biomedical Sciences, Biomedical Engineering, and politics to name but a few.

Kieran Scanlon, Headteacher, commented ""On the whole, we're pleased that most of our students have received their first choice offers. We are obviously delighted that Megan will be going on to study languages at Oxford. We're very lucky to have some excellent students in our sixth form and we wish them all well for the future."

Year 11 students at SRWA overcome challenges to achieve GCSE success



Students and staff at the Sir Robert Woodard Academy, a member of the Woodard Academies Trust, come together proudly today in celebration of another excellent set of GCSE results.

Due to their hard work and commitment before COVID-19 caused the cancellation of exams, Year 11 students were able to demonstrate excellence across the range of subjects, securing places to ensure the next stage in their journey towards their chosen career. During lockdown, many students also showed their further dedication by continuing to study at SRWA, participating in voluntary live online 'bridging' courses to keep their skills up.

There is much to be proud of. This year, many more SRWA students were entered for the academic Ebacc suite of qualifications, resulting in a 24% increase in the pass rate that they achieved.

Across the curriculum, there were also some outstanding subject results: Continuing our trend in recent years, students' grades in Maths improved by another 14% at 5+, and students in Drama/Production Arts and Physics, Chemistry and Biology secured a 100% and 97% pass rate respectively. News on BTEC qualifications is yet to be announced - we look forward to celebrating similar success in these subjects, too.

Among the many examples of outstanding personal effort and achievement were more examples than ever of exceptional individual performance, among them:-

Joe Woods: 8 Grade 9s, 1 Distinction*

Dylan Sadler: 8 Grade 9s, 1 grade 8

Lewis McCabe-Gay: 8 Grade 9s, 1 grade 8

Ella Kwong: 7 Grade 9s

Andreea Bejan: 5 Grade 9s, 4 Grade 8s

Daniel Morley: 4 Grade 9s, 4 Grade 8s, 1 Grade 7

Rosanna Griffiths: 3 Grade 9s, 4 Grade 8s, 1 Grade 7

Joe Stewart: 2 Grade 9s, 5 Grade 8s, 2 Grade 7s

Elizabeth Ayling: 2 Grade 9s, 5 Grade 8s, 2 Grade 7s

Joe Woods, who achieved 8 grade 9s is one of only 20 students in the area to have been awarded a 100% scholarship to Shoreham College to study A-levels in maths, chemistry, biology and drama. He said: "I was a bit worried when I heard about the algorithm affecting A-levels as I thought it could have affected me but I was quietly confident because I knew I had worked really hard to get the grades."

Dylan Sadler, who got 8 grade 9s and 1 grade 8, and is staying on at SRWA sixth form to study A-levels in maths and sciences said: "I thought I'd probably be fine but still part of me thought- oh God, what if? So I feel very relieved today."

Andreea Bejan, was deservedly happy to receive her 5 grade 9s and 4 grade 8s this morning. She said: "After what happened with the A-levels I was really worried because I thought it wouldn't have been fair if I'd been downgraded. But my grades today are pretty much what my mocks predicted so I'm really happy!"

Celebrating with students today, Academy Principal Kieran Scanlon, commented:

“I’m pleased today to be focusing on individual students who have excelled through hard work. This is a true reflection of their commitment to their studies and their ambition for the future. I also want to pay tribute to the data team who have taken the last minute complications in their stride and have worked tirelessly to ensure the students experience a proper results day. The fact that so many of our teachers turn up on results day is a true testament to their commitment to these students. It’s wonderful to be part of such a strong team.”