



Morton Academy

The best in everyone™

Part of United Learning

RMCG/KRE

7th July 2021

Dear Parents/Carers

As we near the end of this academic year I would like to take some time to update you on plans for next year and any changes that will take place. We expect that we will be returning to school as normal in September but stand ready to adapt if needed.

Last Day Arrangements:

The last day of this academic year is Friday 16th July. Students will be dismissed at 12.35pm. Students who are eligible for free school meals will be able to access a grab bag lunch to take home. I would encourage all students to make sure they have taken all their personal belongings home with them.

September Arrangements:

It is difficult to say with absolute certainty how the academy will re-open in September. We expect that it is likely that students will have to test for asymptomatic cases of Covid before returning to school. If this is the case, I would expect that the academy will re-open as follows:

- Wednesday 1st September 2021 – INSET Day
- Thursday 2nd September 2021 – Year 7 and Year 11 students will come in for appointment tests only, then go home.
- Friday 3rd September 2021 – Year 7 and Year 11 students return to the academy, Years 8, 9 and 10 students come in for appointment tests only, then go home.
- Monday 6th September 2021 – All students return to the academy.

This is subject to change; we will write to you in late August when we are absolutely clear on government plans for returning children to school.

Additional Bank Holiday:

You may have read in the press that there will be an additional Bank Holiday next year. This may mean there is an additional closure day for schools. We are awaiting guidance from the Local Authority as to when this may be.

Staffing Update:

I hope you will join me in sending our best wishes to Ciaran Warner, Danielle Benn and James Strange who are leaving us this summer. All three members of staff were with us as trainee teachers and then into their first posts. They are all moving away from Carlisle and I wish them the best of luck with their careers. I would also like to say a fond farewell to Brendan Falloon who is retiring this year after many years of service as a technician in DT.

As you will know I am currently working as Executive Principal of both Morton and Central Academy for the next 12 months. During this phase I am pleased to let you know that Lisa Bewley will be taking on the role of Associate Principal, Andrew Harding will be Associate Vice Principal and Michelle Rigg will be overseeing Safeguarding across both academies. I will still be on site at Morton every day and still plan to return as full time Morton Academy Principal in September 2022.

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We are delighted to welcome a new Year 7 intake of 187 students for September. We have now been oversubscribed for the last 3 years and the academy will have nearly 900 students on site next year. Due to this we have made some more appointments to our staffing:

- Sian Lynch – Subject Leader for History
- Rebecca Taylor – Second in Department for English
- Thomas McBride – Teacher of English
- Ashleigh Coatman – Teacher of Science
- Rachel Dodd – Teacher of Spanish
- Peter Sikkens – Teacher of Science
- Rebecca Shaw – Teaching Assistant

I am very happy to welcome our new staff to our academy community.

Structural Changes:

Following on from 18 months of covid disruption we have explored different ways of making the building work better. Some of the adaptations we plan to maintain are:

- All students enter the building at 8.35am unless they are taking part in an activity before school.
- Year Groups will have their own zones where their Tutor Rooms, lockers and toilet block will be.
- Specific outdoor spaces for Year Groups at break and lunches.
- Split lunches and breaks.

Following on from 18 months of disruption we are going to re-organise the school day to ensure students have as much time as possible to embed deep concepts. We plan to move from six 50 minute lessons in a day to three 100 minute lessons in a day to improve learning and to tackle any gaps that may have appeared during the lockdown phases. This means that students will spend more time in lessons and less time moving around the building. The window of the school day remains the same (8.35am – 3.00pm) and this allows for lunches to be slightly earlier than in our previous school day structure. We are trialling this for the autumn term and we will be asking for you and your child's views on this regularly so please do share when we ask. An example of how the school day will look is below:

Year 7 and Year 11		Year 8, Year 9 and Year 10	
Activity	Time of Day	Activity	Time of Day
Lesson 1	08.35 – 10.15	Lesson 1	08.35 – 10.15
Lesson 2	10.15 – 12.15	Break	10.15 – 10.35
Break within Lesson 2	11.05 – 11.25	Lesson 2	10.35 – 12.15
Tutor Time/Reading	12.15 – 12.50	Lunch	12.15 – 12.45
Lunch	12.50 – 13.20	Tutor Time/Reading	12.45 – 13.20
Lesson 3	13.20 – 15.00	Lesson 3	13.20 – 15.00

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You will see that we are allocating time with Tutors during the school day alongside our whole school reading programme. In September you will also be given the Home Learning Timetable for all year groups as we want this to be clear for you so you know when your child has been set homework and when it is due.

Other Changes:

We also plan to introduce some new opportunities for our students. Currently, students are voting for the names of our new House system. This will underpin our new rewards strategy which will be used more frequently to recognise those students who are achieving well. We also plan to introduce a new outdoor catering service called a 'Snack Shack' with new outdoor seating to give students a bit more space at lunchtime. We are also investing in outdoor table tennis and table football equipment to give students more activities during social times. We have also successfully applied to be involved in the Skills Builder Accelerator programme that will start in September 2021. This programme aims to empower students to build and articulate their essential employability skills, helping to ensure that they succeed in whatever they choose to do post 16.

Uniform

As you'll know you are now able to purchase uniform from our new supplier Your School Uniform.com. The link for our part of the site is: <https://www.yourschooluniform.com/schools/index/the-morton-school-4989>

The Uniform Shop in Carlisle still has some stock available should you wish to purchase from that supplier. Please refer to the website for our uniform expectations ([Uniform](#)). The academy will also be operating a Swap Shop for most of our uniform items. This will be advertised on social media. If you have items that can be donated please bring them in, and please feel welcome to visit the swap shop to ensure these items get used. Please note that jewellery is not permitted in the academy and that footwear should be black leather shoes.

Equipment:

When students return in September they should have adequate supplies of pens, pencils, rubbers, rulers and a calculator. The academy will supply your child with a Planner, Knowledge Organiser and Self-Quizzing book. Students will also need their lanyard and card to ensure they can access the canteen and printing services. Our new Year 7s and Year 10s will have photos taken early in the academic year. Our rules on mobile phones remain the same, these devices should not be seen in the academy.

Safeguarding:

The safeguarding of our students remains our highest priority and during the holiday period there can often be situations in which our families or students need support. I would like to take this opportunity to remind you of the pathways of reporting that are available to students and parents. During school closure you can contact the academy via email using the safeguarding@rrma.org.uk or complete the anonymised form on our website ([Anonymous Reporting](#)). Those methods of reporting are checked at points throughout the holidays by members of the Safeguarding Team and will be reviewed at the start of the next academic year. There are also links and support on our website that you can follow to gain advice from external agencies such as NSPCC, Kooth and Mind, if you or your child are concerned about mental health issues or need some advice and guidance. However, if you require immediate support or advice or are concerned that a child is at immediate risk of harm please contact the Cumbria Safeguarding Hub 0333 240 1727, the police 101/ 999 or Childline FREE 0800 1111.

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I would like to thank all students, parents and staff for their incredible work and support during this academic year. We are all hopeful that September will be as close to normal as possible. But we also know that we are able to adapt well to any situation that could occur. I hope all members of our community are able to have a restful break over the summer ready for a return in September.

Yours sincerely

Richard McGuire
Executive Principal