



## End of Academic Year letter – July 2020

To our community,

It seems a very long time ago since I wrote informing you all of the confirmed closure of the Academy, in line with Government announcements and the global situation with COVID-19. At that moment there was so much uncertainty and we were all attempting to digest what was unfolding in front of our eyes.

Whilst we are still operating with many questions and concerns about the future, there has been much to admire about how we have worked together to cope with these unprecedented times. I have been extremely proud to witness students, staff and families working together throughout the past few months; it has been very obvious that the Academy values are not just promotional based words. We have been living by them and showing high levels of resilience each day.

Before I move on, I would also like to thank you for the overwhelming gratitude and feedback we have received over the past few months. Your kind messages of appreciation have been valued and contributed towards our efforts.

As I have recently informed you, our planning and provision for September 2020 will be communicated over the summer, please stay informed to announcements and ensure you digest the information we will provide. This will play an important role in the safe reopening of the Academy. We will have to make alterations to the operational structures of the building; however, these will be done as sensitively as possible, with the student experiences and safety of all in mind. Where compromises are required, we really need our community to understand and work with us.

Next, I would like to thank and recognise three main sets of people. Firstly, our students. This has been, and will continue to be, an experience that you could never have imagined. It is important for you to know that I appreciate your approach. As I have said to you in virtual assemblies, broadcasts and letters, your hard work and attitudes have been acknowledged. These qualities will continue to be required over the summer and when you return. Well done and please keep going!

Secondly, I would like to highlight the efforts of parents and carers with home schooling and communication. I have no doubt that you have felt the stress and strain of juggling work or family life with supervision. I'm sure there has been many internet searches and conversations with your children on work that has been assigned. I do not underestimate that challenge - especially experiencing it myself with two Primary aged children. I'm sure my comical stories would mirror some of your experiences, so thank you all for your exertions.

Thirdly, please join me in congratulating the Academy staff for their contributions over the last two terms. Teachers and Learning Support Assistants have had to quickly adapt to new ways of working and providing a very different kind of education for our students, their commitment and diligence have been unwavering. Also, all our other staff have worked tirelessly to maintain operational functions of the Academy; these staff have also been crucial in supporting our students. Administration, IT, Restaurant and Site personnel all deserve huge credit for their efforts. Furthermore, the Academy's Governance have provided us with a good blend of challenge and support throughout the national school closures.

Whilst I can't predict what the future holds in regards to COVID-19, I can commit to our continued efforts in caring and educating our students. Please rest assured that we always work towards providing the best possible provision for all.

### September reopening

It goes without saying that the Academy structure and delivery of lessons will be very different in September. With this point in mind, we will be producing new timetables for students that will be issued on their first day back. A

return to school booklet and broadcast will also be shared over the summer. Please can you support us when discussing with your child the importance of adhering to expectations, Health & Safety and protocols.

You will be aware of our intention to communicate with you during the week commencing 10<sup>th</sup> August, when you will receive detailed plans and information about the return to school for all students.

As additional information, and to give you a flavour of our planning opportunities, please see below a link that the Department for Education has provided for parents and carers. This information is also available on the Academy's website in **The Academy** section, **COVID-19 Information**:

<https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/what-parents-and-carers-need-to-know-about-early-years-providers-schools-and-colleges-during-the-coronavirus-covid-19-outbreak/what-parents-and-carers-need-to-know-about-early-years-providers-schools-and-colleges-in-the-autumn-term>

I look forward to providing further guidance over the coming weeks. Please also find attached some important operational based information for your reading and understanding.

Stay safe and take care.

Your sincerely

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'S. Underwood', written in a cursive style.

Mr S. Underwood  
Associate Principal

## Operational based information

Below you will find some operational based information that will be important for next academic year. Please take the time to digest the points raised and use the relevant contact details if you have any questions.

### Texts and alerts

Over the past few weeks as we have adapted to working differently. The Academy has introduced some changes to the way it communicates to parents and carers. Our texts and letters are now being sent via the School Information Management System - SIMS 'In Touch', this has been implemented to support with continuity and consistency with data. Therefore, the previous system (My Ed app) will now cease to operate. The In Touch system uses the email and phone numbers that have been provided to us. Therefore, if you do change contact details please keep us informed.

### Payments and 'WisePay' system

You will be aware that many establishments have removed the cash payments facility and the Academy intends to continue its recent move to no longer handle cash on site. Our secure payment system WisePay is set up for all parents and carers to add lunch monies, payments for trips, music lessons and books or revision materials. We have now removed all payment limits, so if you simply wish to purchase one lunch for your child this can be done without restriction.

### Free School Meals

We have recently contacted all parents and carers encouraging consideration to whether you meet the criteria to qualify for Free School Meals. Whilst the deadline for securing vouchers over the summer has past, those students approved for Free School Meals do receive both breakfast and lunch at the Academy. This is alongside creating academy-based opportunities to improve educational provision for those students. If you haven't already, or your circumstances have changed, please take a look at the details on our website to see if you are entitled:

[www.corbybusinessacademy.org/attachments/download.asp?file=1943&type=pdf](http://www.corbybusinessacademy.org/attachments/download.asp?file=1943&type=pdf)

### Uniform

As students will be asked to return to school in full uniform, a reminder that our new uniform supplier has a store in Peterborough as well as providing an online postal service. If you need to place an order, please visit: [www.chromasport.co.uk](http://www.chromasport.co.uk) To guarantee delivery before school starts, orders must be placed before 12<sup>th</sup> August 2020.

### Summer Communication

If you have any queries please email [enquiries@corbybusinessacademy.org](mailto:enquiries@corbybusinessacademy.org) and a representative from the Academy will get back to you as soon as possible.