

Dear Parents, Carers and Students of Senior Academy,

I hope you are safe and well and in good health.

I feel immensely proud and privileged to be joining Fortis Academy as Headteacher for Senior Academy. My career to date has seen me walk the corridors of schools in Solihull, Wolverhampton, Birmingham and Warwickshire. The experiences and differing contexts I have garnered along the way will enable me to lead the Senior Academy team in delivering the first-class academy that our community deserves. I very much look forward to working with each and every one of the students in Senior Academy to enable them to be successful, build the foundations of life-long learning and superb life chances.

Allow me to introduce you to our new expectations across Senior Academy from September, including our six “**Non-negotiables**”. These underpin everything that we do at Fortis Senior Academy on a daily basis, in and out of the classroom. I fully expect our students to buy into these expectations when in school and I am sure that you will agree, these expectations should also help them develop socially outside of school as they mature holistically into rounded individuals.

#### **The Fortis Senior Academy Six Non-Negotiables**

Our **Can-Do Attitude** extends to all of us. There are often times in all of our lives when our patience is tried and tested. However, the unwavering belief that anything is possible is crucial; the resilience and tenacity we often need as adults needs to be developed as young people; Nelson Mandela once stated that “*It all seems impossible until it is done.*”

**High Expectations** are the cornerstone of our success. All stakeholders in Senior Academy will aspire to inculcate a culture of the highest expectations of themselves and others in order to maintain the highest possible standards in what we do, what we say and how we act.

One of the main differences between humans and most animals is our capacity for **Altruism**. The selfless concern for the well-being of others is one of the hallmarks of Senior Academy. Students and staff will take care of each other, look out for others’ welfare and ensure that their actions and decisions have at their centre the harmonious running of Senior Academy.

A **No Excuses** culture is one which must be handled sensitively, for we are all susceptible to mistakes. However, students will be encouraged to push through difficulties and, with the support of their teachers and peers, will prevail. The opportunities presented to them in Senior Academy are available to all; to deny oneself these opportunities would be to find excuses and we will all ensure that excuses do not block the pathways to success.

**Compassion**, tolerance and kindness will be at the heart of everything we do in Senior Academy. All colleagues will seek ways of encouraging kindness and champion it. The ability to treat everyone with respect, dignity and compassion will be apparent in all Senior Academy students and staff and these virtues will be evident in and out of school.

The ability to put oneself in someone else’s position and to act with **Empathy** will ensure that we develop well-rounded students who receive a first-class holistic education whilst learning that taking others’ feelings into consideration will make them successful leaders of an internationally competitive world.

If we take the first letters of each “**Non-Negotiable**”, we spell **CHANCE**. This is what we are giving to each and every one of our students; the best chance for an exciting, rewarding and fulfilling life.

Kerry Inscker Executive Principal Andrew Williams Acting Headteacher

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## Uniform

From **Monday 7<sup>th</sup> September 2020**, all Senior Academy students will wear an updated uniform which will consist of the following:

- 1) Existing school grey charcoal blazer and trousers or pleated skirt.
- 2) New Fortis Senior Academy tie (red and navy stripes), which we have purchased for you and will be given out on students' first day back in Form Time, at no cost to parents as a gesture of goodwill given the current difficult time.
- 3) White shirt for boys and girls. If they prefer, girls may wear a white *revere shirt*, which negates the need to wear their tie.
- 4) *Optional* plain black 'V' neck jumper or cardigan, low enough to show the collar and tie.
- 5) Plain dark socks.
- 6) Black school shoes; no coloured logos/soles/laces.
- 7) Existing school PE Kit.
- 8) Dark coat (Blue, grey or black). In the darker, Winter months, brightly coloured accessories may help with visibility. Hoodies and fashion jackets are not permitted.
- 9) Jewellery – Plain stud earrings (maximum of one in each ear), wristwatch and one small ring only. All other jewellery is not permitted.

I would like to set my expectations from the outset. I expect all students to be in smart uniform every day, when in school and walking to and from it. We understand that trainer-style shoes are widely available and comfortable; these will be acceptable but under no circumstances should they contain any other colour than black (i.e. coloured laces, logos or soles). This is a policy which will be reviewed in the New Year.

## Start of the Autumn Term: Monday, 7<sup>th</sup> and Tuesday 8<sup>th</sup> September 2020

The Academy will open for students in general on Monday, 7<sup>th</sup> September 2020, with students in full school uniform. However, owing to DfE Guidance following the Coronavirus lockdown and subsequent social distancing measures, school will look and feel rather different, with **differing start times and finish times and for the first two days, differing year groups**. This is explained below:

**Year 12 and 13** students will arrive at school on **Monday, 7<sup>th</sup> September 2020 at 8:45am**. They will depart at 3:50pm. They will follow this routine for each Monday, Tuesday, Thursday and Friday until further notice. On **Wednesday 9<sup>th</sup> September** (and all Wednesdays thereafter), they will **arrive at 8:45am** and depart at 2:10pm.

**Year 11** students will arrive at school on **Monday, 7<sup>th</sup> September 2020 at 8:45am**. They will depart at 3:50pm. They will follow this routine for each Monday, Tuesday, Thursday and Friday until further notice. On Wednesdays, Year 11 students will arrive at 8:45am and depart at 2:10pm.

**Year 10** students will arrive at school on **Tuesday, 8<sup>th</sup> September 2020 at 9:05am**. They will depart at 3:40pm. They will follow this routine for each Monday, Tuesday, Thursday and Friday until further notice. On Wednesdays, Year 10 students will arrive at 9:05am and depart at 2:00pm.

This is summarised in the table below:

	<b>Monday</b>	<b>Tuesday</b>	<b>Wednesday</b>	<b>Thursday</b>	<b>Friday</b>
<b>Year 12, 13</b>	Arrive: 8.45am Depart: 3.50pm	Arrive: 8.45am Depart: 3.50pm	Arrive: 8.45am Depart: 2.10pm	Arrive: 8.45am Depart: 3.50pm	Arrive: 8.45am Depart: 3.50pm
<b>Year 11</b>	Arrive: 8.45am Depart: 3.50pm	Arrive: 8.45am Depart: 3.50pm	Arrive: 8.45am Depart: 2.10pm	Arrive: 8.45am Depart: 3.50pm	Arrive: 8.45am Depart: 3.50pm
<b>Year 10</b>	Arrive: 9.05am Depart: 3.40pm	Arrive: 9.05am Depart: 3.40pm	Arrive: 9.05am Depart: 2.00pm	Arrive: 9.05am Depart: 3.40pm	Arrive: 9.05am Depart: 3.40pm

I fully appreciate that the last few months have been testing for you all as we have had to navigate our best through the uncharted waters we have been presented with. However, we emerge in September to a bright new dawn, where opportunities abound and futures are created. I am very much looking forward to working alongside you as Headteacher for Senior Academy and in the meantime, I wish you and your families a relaxing, fun-filled and memorable summer holiday.

Yours faithfully,



**Christopher Czepukojć**  
**Headteacher Senior Academy**



## Health & Safety Information for Academy Re-Opening

### All students will return to school on Monday 7<sup>th</sup> and Tuesday 8<sup>th</sup> September 2020

All students are expected to return to school after the summer holidays. We understand that this may cause some anxiety for some parents and students, so we would like to reassure you that we are taking every precaution to ensure that students and staff are kept safe. We are following national guidelines and putting the following measures in place to do all we can to prevent infection by coronavirus:

**Arrival at and Departure from School:** Start times have been staggered to avoid congestion at bus stops and school gates, these times are in place during the COVID pandemic only and will revert to the planned school day as soon as possible

	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday
<b>Year 12 ,13</b>	Arrive 8.45am Depart 3.50pm	Arrive 8.45am Depart 3.50pm	Arrive 8.45am Depart 2.10pm	Arrive 8.45am Depart 3.50pm	Arrive 8.45am Depart 3.50pm
<b>Year 11</b>	Arrive 8.45am Depart 3.50pm	Arrive 8.45am Depart 3.50pm	Arrive 8.45am Depart 2.10pm	Arrive 8.45am Depart 3.50pm	Arrive 8.45am Depart 3.50pm
<b>Year 10</b>	Arrive 9.05am Depart 3.40pm	Arrive 9.05am Depart 3.40pm	Arrive 9.05am Depart 2.00pm	Arrive 9.05am Depart 3.40pm	Arrive 9.05am Depart 3.40pm

We have a rigorous cleaning programme in place throughout the day and when school closes

#### **Learning:**

- Single year group bubbles are in place to avoid cross-infection
- Students will use a limited number of rooms, with lessons broken down into 3 double sessions rather than 6 single
- Classrooms cleaned thoroughly at the end of every day following Public Health guidelines
- Sanitiser and tissues available in all rooms for staff and student use
- No shared equipment and resources

#### **Social Time:**

- Single year group bubbles will be maintained so each year group will have single use of own facilities
- Separate breaks and lunchtimes for each year group to maintain year group bubbles
- Monitored use of toilet and handwashing facilities, regularly cleaned
- Hand sanitiser readily available around school

#### **What Parents can do to help:**

- Ensure your child knows the importance of following instructions in school and acting in a safe way
- Be clear that we will take serious action against any child who disobeys safety instructions and puts others at risk
- Provide your child with hand sanitiser if you have some (there is lots in school so don't worry if you can't get any)
- Where possible, avoid public transport to ease congestion – we have a new off-road drop-off area you can use at the front of school on Aldridge Road
- Ensure your child has their own equipment (pen, pencil, ruler, pencil sharpener, rubber)

#### **Other Information:**

- There will be food available for purchase at break/lunchtime, please note that this will be a more limited menu
- The health and safety of our students/staff comes first: we will not tolerate any behaviour which puts others at risk
- Please do not hesitate to contact us if you have any questions or concerns, we are here to help you so your child has a positive and happy return to school