

FULWOODS DRIVE
MILTON KEYNES
BUCKINGHAMSHIRE
MK6 5LA

PRINCIPAL: FIONA SEDDON
T +44 (0)1908 341700
E info@miltonkeynesacademy.org.uk
www.miltonkeynesacademy.org.uk



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**THE MILTON
KEYNES ACADEMY**
*Creative
Education
Trust*

Dear Parent/Carer,

I am writing to you for the final time after the most extraordinary year. I hope to share some reflections and to clarify arrangements for the holidays and in the Autumn.

Reflections on the year

Over the past year our school became zoned into bubbles, our staff have delivered lessons from their homes and our learners engaged remotely.

In the Spring, we welcomed back our students from the third national lockdown. It was brilliant to have them back in the building! We became a testing centre, doled out LFD tests and did our utmost to keep the school community safe. It wasn't always easy, and we were grateful to our families who supported when we needed students to self-isolate.

In the Summer term, our students faced many assessments and conducted themselves professionally. Teachers worked tirelessly to assess and grade work. Parents met with teachers online to discuss their child's progress. Throughout all of this, we developed new ways of working, embracing technology and adapting teaching to address gaps and support future learning. Our students and staff have worked together dynamically. It was a delight to see our students return once again to practical subjects including sports and performing arts. It was an honour to wish our Year 11 and Year 13 students farewell onsite. They will remain part of our MKA family.

Summer Events

We are very pleased to be holding a Summer School for Year 6 to aid their transition to MKA next Year. This will be running from 9am – 3pm daily during the week of 9 August 2021. The aim of this programme is to deliver a blend of academic education and enrichment activities. This will provide the students with an opportunity to familiarise themselves with the building and staff, as well as giving students a platform for September, through our literacy and numeracy offering. There will also be opportunities for the students to access sporting activities, performing arts, science and catering lessons to build and develop their



interpersonal skills, which have been stymied by the pandemic. We have already been communicating with families through the MKA Class of 2021 email.

Results Days this year are Tuesday 10 August for A level and Level 3 courses and Thursday 12 August for GCSE and Level 2 courses. A communication has already been sent out to parents of students in Y11 and Y13, giving full details about the procedures. This year results will be published via Edulink on the morning of the Results day at 8.30am, with follow up appointments offered for any student who would benefit from additional support.

Moving Forward

You may be aware that the Department for Education has issued updated Covid-19 guidance for schools. Though this guidance comes into effect from Monday 19 July, we will not be making major operational changes until the Autumn Term begins. We have made this decision to avoid confusion on the last few days of term, and to make sure that we continue to provide a Covid-secure environment, which we are required to do.

In September we hope to resume teaching in specialist spaces and support our students in moving around our fantastic building to enjoy being taught in departmentally led areas. Of course, we will have to stay nimble and be prepared to revert to Year Group bubbles should it be necessitated owing to the climate or DfE guidance.

From the Autumn Term children and adults will no longer be required to wear face coverings in school, though they may choose to do so if they so wish. We will no longer be required to contact trace students and will therefore no longer have to operate in bubbles.

Covid-19 lateral flow device testing

A gentle reminder that over the summer, all students should continue to test twice weekly at home and report results to both the school survey using the following [link](#) and the NHS website – please click [here](#).

On their return to school in September, all students will be given the opportunity to take two Lateral Flow Tests on school site. It is clearly in the interests of the school and its community that as many students as possible take up this opportunity to be tested on their return to school. As the students will be taking the new Orient Gene LFD test, we need to ask all families to provide consent for the testing by using the following [link](#). We would also ask all families to note the health advice regarding your responsibilities to follow guidance, not to send children to school if they have symptoms.



Arrangements for September:

In September, students' arrival time will be from 8.30am, with our first lesson starting at 8.45am. Please see below the timings of the day from September:

Period	Time	Break and Lunch
Tutor Time	08.45 – 09.15	
Period 1	09.15 – 10.15	
Period 2 & Break	10.15 – 11.30	Break 1 10.15 – 10.30 (Year 7, 9 & 10) Break 2 11.15 – 11.30 (Year 8, 11, 12 & 13)
Period 3	11.30 – 12.30	
Period 4 & Lunch	12.30 – 14.00	Lunch 1 12.30 – 13.00 (Year 7, 9 & 10) Lunch 2 13.30 – 14.00 (Year 8, 11, 12, 13)
Period 5	14.00 – 15.00	

To induct our students fully into school, the start of term will be a phased return for different year groups. At the present time we are planning on the following start dates for each year group:

Friday 3 September Years 7, 11 and 12
Monday 6 September Years 10 and 13
Tuesday 7 September Year 9
Wednesday 8 September Year 8

The guidance provided by the Department for Education also makes clear families should consider travel advice if travelling abroad to ensure children can return for the start of term.

You are aware that this has been a changing situation from the start and that may be the case over summer holidays. If we have further updates or changes to share with you, we will contact you via EduLink. Please also refer to our website.

End of term arrangements

A reminder that the last day of this term is Tuesday 20 July. We are operating a slightly early finish for students on this day with a staggered dismissal as follows:

13.45 - Y7 & 10 students will depart
13.55 - Y12 students will depart
14.00 - Y8 & 9 students will depart



We thank you for your support with our amended arrangements for the final day of term. Should you have any concerns please communicate using the usual channels.

Finally, I have been very proud to work as Principal at MKA. I would like to take the opportunity to thank you for your on-going support at a particularly challenging time. You may recall that I wrote to you back in January to share that I would be departing at the end of this academic year. I wish you farewell as I hand over the reins to Gordon Farquhar, an experienced Principal who will lead the next stage of the MKA journey.

Enjoy a well-deserved summer break. Stay safe.

Kind regards

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Fiona Seddon'.

Fiona Seddon
Principal