



9 July 2020

Dear Parents, Carers and Guardians

I am writing to provide you with a brief update on a number of Academy matters.

As the summer term draws to a close we can reflect back on what has been a remarkable four months. All aspects of our lives have been turned upside down and we have had to adapt very quickly to living in a new Coronavirus world. It has been a difficult time for all in our community but it does seem that the virus is under control locally and that this signals the return to a degree of normality.

We are really pleased to be opening to all of our students in September and we can't wait to see everyone back in school again. Although most of the experience of returning to school in September will feel fairly normal, there will be a number of adjustments that we will need to make to keep the Academy safe for students and staff. We have drawn up a plan that now needs to be approved by the Governors and Trustees early next week. I will be able to write again to you with more detail of our plans on Wednesday.

In addition to planning for how we are making the Academy ready for opening in September we have also been busy making some improvements in other areas. One of the big projects is replacing the astro turf pitch. The old surface was very worn and outdated so it is being replaced by a brand new 4G surface with new perimeter fencing. PE lessons and lunchtime clubs will be transformed! We are also refurbishing the student toilets in the Humanities corridor. This toilet block is the oldest in the Academy and left a lot to be desired. On both the boys and girls side there will be new floor to ceiling cubicles, new toilets, new sinks and new flooring. I am sure that the students will appreciate the new facilities. We have also renewed the roof on the Drama and Music block which will hopefully mean no more leaks!

We have been busy renewing some of our IT resources too. Earlier in the year we established a new computer room in G10 and stripped out and replaced the computers in T12. Over the last few weeks we have refurbished T15 with new computers, chairs, carpet, lighting and ceiling. We have also been able to provide a large number of families with a computer to use at home where access has been difficult. Around 110 families have benefitted from this. There will be further IT developments in the next year. Finally, just to cause some confusion when the students return, the Maths Faculty have swapped rooms with the Humanities Faculty.

I am pleased to say that we are fully staffed for September and I am looking forward to introducing new colleagues to you and the students when the new term begins. We are sad to be saying goodbye to Mr Houghton, Mr Bateman, Mr Kilbane, Ms Syed and Mr Stagg. We wish them well in their new roles and thank them for their service to Lord Grey.

As many of you will know we are also saying goodbye to Mr Handyside who is retiring after 28 years at Lord Grey. Mr Handyside is known by every student in the school and by many parents too. Mr Handyside is the embodiment of Lord Grey Academy and the care and support that he has shown to students and staff has been simply amazing. We will miss him greatly and wish him well in his retirement.

My letter next week will be all about reopening in September so I will take this chance to thank you all for your support of Lord Grey Academy over this difficult time. The students have been fantastic in how they have adapted to home learning and parents have done a great job in supporting this too. There have been ups and downs at times but actually I think we have all probably learned something about ourselves and that now, as we come out of lockdown, there is a chance to think about how we might do things in the future differently.

School closes at lunchtime on Friday 17 July for the summer holidays and we very much hope that the students enjoy the rest so that they are ready and raring to go in September.

Yours sincerely

**Jim Parker**  
Principal

