



JBO/BSM

17 July 2020

Dear Families

I am writing to you at the end of what has been the most unusual academic year we are likely to ever face. Last Thursday, the government finally published their guidance regarding the full reopening of schools in September and we are now looking forward to being able to welcome all of our children back into the building full time. Schools and headteachers receive this information at the same time as families and the general public so we are now finally in a position to start to plan for school's return in September. As I am sure you can imagine, we have a significant amount of planning to do before we can give any further information to families. I appreciate how frustrating this may be for you, it has also been a frustrating period for us.

### **September 2020 Planning**

Planning is underway to ensure that we are able to fulfil all health and safety guidance on preventing the transmission of Covid-19 and reducing student movement around the building. Please be assured that the safety of both our students and staff is very important to us. We will send out full details on our return to school once planning has been completed which will be over the summer. We are very much looking forward to welcoming all families back to the academy in September and it has been wonderful to see so many of you on home visits, collecting work packs and attending face to face appointments.

Presently, we are planning for a staggered return and our risk assessment can be found on our academy website. Below are the dates we anticipate being open for students but we will review these throughout the summer as we monitor the progress of the pandemic. We have also re-shaped the academy day to give students additional support and lessons and full details will be released throughout the summer period as new guidance becomes available.

- September 3<sup>rd</sup> and 4<sup>th</sup> – Staff INSET Days
- September 7<sup>th</sup> – Year 7 only
- September 8<sup>th</sup> – Year 7 and 11
- September 9<sup>th</sup> – Year 7, 8 and 11
- September 10<sup>th</sup> – Years 7, 8, 9 and 11
- September 11<sup>th</sup> – All Years

We are also currently focused on developing a timetable which gives our students the support they might need to catch up on lost learning. You will also receive a summer work pack for your child to try to maintain some of the independent work skills that many of our young people have built up during the period.

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### **Supporting our Students**

Whilst we are committed to ensuring that our students achieve the best academic outcomes, we also recognise our responsibility to support each of our young people as human beings and not solely students. We have put training and structures in place to ensure that we can prioritise students' wellbeing and mental health on their return in September. We know that lockdown has been a difficult period for all families and that home learning has placed particular stress on students, parents and carers. We realise that many of our students may have suffered bereavement or other crises during this period and we are working hard to ensure that they will be well supported once they return to school.

We have remained open during the lockdown period and work is continuing to address the points raised by OFSTED in their December report. Significant building work is taking place to open up more spaces to support our students including a new SEND space, Students Services Hub and nurture group classrooms. The Students Services team has also been restructured and a significant number of new appointments made to make sure that students are both well supported in school and that there are clear lines of communication for families. The Co-operating for Learning and Life policy has been reviewed to consider the increased support that our students will likely need after this prolonged absence from school. We have also provided Level 3 Safeguarding and Mental Health First Aid training for all of our Student Services staff. More detailed information regarding all of this will come out to you in the next few weeks.

### **Supporting Our Families**

As you will know, we have worked hard as a TEMA community to support our families during the period of lockdown. We know many of our families have been impacted financially during lockdown. We are looking to see how we may be able to continue support after school has reopened. Meetings are taking place with our community partners to see how we might open up our facilities to the community and also how we might help our students to access the significant community provision in East Manchester. We are also hoping to also to be able to offer crisis support and foodbank provision to our families when we return in September.

### **School Uniform**

We know many of our families have concerns about meeting the cost of school uniform for next year. We have been able to secure some funding in order to help us to support families in purchasing uniform for students.

Please email the address below if you require support in purchasing TEMA school uniform for your children.

[uniformbursary@temac.co.uk](mailto:uniformbursary@temac.co.uk)

### **Celebrating Success**

Despite the premature end to our academic year, we have still had lots to celebrate. We are very proud of all of our students every day but particular mention should go to our Debate Mate team who finished in 5<sup>th</sup> place nationally in the Secondary Urban Debate League and were the only Manchester school to finish nationally in the top 15. As ever, our sports team have represented us. Congratulations also to our KS4 Boys Basketball team who won the Manchester Western Conference and our Y9 Boys' Football Team who finished at the top of the Manchester Schools' Premier Division.

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We are also greatly looking forward to welcoming our students back to receive their GCSE results. Regardless of the fact that students did not sit their very final exams, we know how hard they have worked throughout their time at school. They should be rightly proud of their efforts and to acknowledge this we are looking at organising celebration events for the students in the autumn term. We will be having a GCSE Results day as normal on Thursday 20th August 2020 when results are released. Results will be available for students and their families to collect in school between 10:00am and 12:00pm. We will be following the social distancing protocols that are in place at the time of the results day to enable the safe collection of these resources.

We would like to thank all of our parents and carers for your support during this period. As a staff body we feel privileged to be part of the TEMA community and to serve our students and their families. As ever, we welcome your feedback on how we can best support you and your families and please get in touch with us at school if you have any questions.

Please have a restful summer and please contact the academy if you require any support or assistance during this time. We very much look forward to welcoming our entire community back in September.

Yours sincerely



Jackie Bowen  
**Academy Headteacher**



# The East Manchester Academy

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## Useful addresses

<b>Support from Subject Leaders in relation to home learning</b>	
English	<a href="mailto:r.henry@temac.co.uk">r.henry@temac.co.uk</a>
Mathematics	<a href="mailto:w.johnson@temac.co.uk">w.johnson@temac.co.uk</a>
Science	<a href="mailto:j.isles@temac.co.uk">j.isles@temac.co.uk</a>
Design & Create	<a href="mailto:z.marchant@temac.co.uk">z.marchant@temac.co.uk</a>
IT	<a href="mailto:s.berne@temac.co.uk">s.berne@temac.co.uk</a>
Humanities	<a href="mailto:m.gibbard@temac.co.uk">m.gibbard@temac.co.uk</a>
PE	<a href="mailto:c.hamilton@temac.co.uk">c.hamilton@temac.co.uk</a>
Performing Arts	<a href="mailto:h.ingram@temac.co.uk">h.ingram@temac.co.uk</a>
Issues with free school meals, ecode vouchers etc	<a href="mailto:FSMvouchers@temac.co.uk">FSMvouchers@temac.co.uk</a>
The East Manchester Academy's IT passwords, FROG, Century Tech	IT helpdesk - <a href="mailto:Helpdesk@temac.co.uk">Helpdesk@temac.co.uk</a>
Other concerns and worries about TEMA students and families	<a href="https://www.theeastmanchesteracademy.co.uk/general/thoughts-and-worries">https://www.theeastmanchesteracademy.co.uk/general/thoughts-and-worries</a>
The East Manchester Academy SENDCo	Help and support for families of student with special educational needs. Email – <a href="mailto:b.moules@temac.co.uk">b.moules@temac.co.uk</a>
OneEducation	This service offers a problem-solving phone conversation relating to educating your child/young person at home and responding to issues relating to learning, behaviour, anxiety and mental health needs.
SEND Helpline	
	0161 276 0118
Financial hardship	<a href="https://secure.manchester.gov.uk/info/200008/benefits_and_support/6302/apply_for_a_cash_grant_if_you_are_in_financial_crisis">https://secure.manchester.gov.uk/info/200008/benefits_and_support/6302/apply_for_a_cash_grant_if_you_are_in_financial_crisis</a>
Difficulties completing online forms, claiming benefits online, online banking or any other aspect of digital living	<a href="mailto:digitalinclusion@manchester.gov.uk">digitalinclusion@manchester.gov.uk</a>
Foodbanks	<a href="https://manchestercentral.foodbank.org.uk/">https://manchestercentral.foodbank.org.uk/</a>