

2 July 2020

Dear Parent/Carer

Academy Re-opening to Y9

I hope you and your families continue to be safe and well during these uncertain times. We are looking forward to welcoming year 9 back to school before the end of the academic year. You should have received a text alongside this letter to notify you of the specific date and time your child will be in the academy. These are detailed below:

Students should arrive between 8.30am and 8.50am.

Your child is in Bubble M, N, O, P, Q, R: 8.50-10.20am on Thursday 16 July

I thought it would be helpful to share a little more information about the planned return with students and parents.

It is important that we recognise that the reopening of the academy can only happen if it is safe to do so. The staff at the academy have been working really hard to make the appropriate arrangements to ensure we have everything in place to ensure risks are minimised to reduce transmission. We have created a video that was originally created for year 10 students that can be viewed on the academy website showing a range of measures that are in place to keep our children and staff safe.

As outlined in government guidance the academy can only be open to 25% of the year group on any given day. We are planning for each student to attend one session that will be 90 minutes long. The academic mentoring session will provide students with an opportunity to reflect on self-isolation, review their work produced at home and set targets for the next academic year. **Only children who have an allocated session will be able to attend the academy.**

As children have been away from the academy for some time we will focus on pastoral support; which will include opportunities for children to talk about their recent experiences: be that with learning at home, mental health and well-being and how they have kept themselves safe. For students who need an opportunity for further pastoral support staff will be available for one to one conversations.

On arrival for their allocated session students will view a brief daily welcome presentation outlining the expectations regarding staying safe, alert and ensuring everyone is kept well.

Minimising transmission is vital to ensure we all stay safe, with this in mind all students have been allocated a 'bubble' this is their class for their session. Students enter the academy via the Sports Hall and are escorted to their bubble, they remain in their bubble for their 90-minute session and are then escorted out of the academy. There will be a staggered dismissal at the end of the session to ensure appropriate social distancing measures are in place. We are also operating a one-way system and only utilising specific sections of the academy. This will assist in minimal transmission.

Other measures we would ask parents and carers to support with minimising transmission are:

- If your child is sick, or any member of your household are showing any Covid 19 symptoms, your child must not attend the academy, they should self-isolate following government guidelines
- Ensuring students do not wear school uniform, they should wear clothing that is easily washed and suitable for a school environment. Students should not wear any jewellery or makeup. They do need to wear clothing that is warm as the building will be well ventilated (windows and door kept open)
- Students must not bring any bags or equipment into the academy. Each child will be allocated their own equipment
- There are no facilities available for break, students will come in for the 90-minute academic mentoring session only
- To support social distancing and keep everyone safe your child must keep to their entry slot for their session. We all need to work together and support each other in the present situation. Please reiterate the importance of social distancing if your child is walking to the academy, they must not congregate in large groups with other students
- If your child arrives LATE after 8.50am for their session, they will need to present at Reception following the social distancing expectations. On late entry your child will be accompanied to their bubble classroom
- When your child exits the academy they will be dismissed to adhere to social distancing expectations to keep everyone safe any children who are walking home must adhere to social distancing on their journey in the community to ensure everyone's safety. It is imperative that they do not congregate with other children in the community.

Please support us all by ensuring your child understands the expectations with social distancing and demonstrates these expectations consistently to make sure everyone stays safe through being alert.

The academy is not open for visitors; all parents and carers are politely advised to NOT come into the academy, where at all possible, and contact us via telephone, to help keep us all safe.

If your child is arriving or being collected by car please follow the instructions below:

- Year 9 students will be entering the building via the Sports Hall fire exit at their allocated time slots
- The turning circle at the front of the school is now a no entry for parent/carer vehicles. This is for the safety of students and staff
- Cars dropping off students for their session should go to the far end of the car park and turn around to drop-off, or pull into a bay opposite the tennis courts
- Do not park in the 'drop-off zone'
- Staff will be on duty at entrance and exit times to ensure the safety of our students

To make sure we prioritise the safety of everyone, please make sure you arrive on time as per the allocated time slot

Any students who are traveling on bikes will take their bikes to the bike shed via the Sports Hall gates. Any students who are traveling by public transport must make sure they follow the government guidelines which can be found here:

<https://www.gov.uk/guidance/coronavirus-covid-19-safer-travel-guidance-for-passengers#history>

- Plan ahead and use a direct route
- Wear a face covering and if you can take hand sanitiser
- Wash or sanitise your hands before and after your journey
- Maintain a social distance of 2 meters
- If you can, pay by a contactless method such as a bus pass

Your support and cooperation with the new arrangements is really appreciated. Although this guidance and information is very extensive, it is essential that everyone has a clear understanding about how hard we are working to ensure Outwood Academy Bydales is a safe and reassuring place for your child to be.

During these very difficult times, we acknowledge that some families will have experienced bereavements. We are extremely sorry for your loss and our thoughts are with you. It would be helpful for us to be aware of any bereavements in order to ensure we can put relevant support in place for your child and family. Please contact Miss Gates if you would be prepared to share this information with us. Miss Gates can be contacted via email on k.gates@bydales.outwood.com or on the usual school number on 0164247400 ext 202.

We have worked tirelessly ensuring we are able to accommodate your child and support them through the coming months and over the next academic year. Please do not hesitate to contact us if you have any questions, concerns or would like to clarify any information. There is also additional information on our website and a copy of this letter. Do take time to talk through our plans with your child so they are clear about the plans and expectations outlined; be assured we have their health and wellbeing at the heart of everything we do.

Yours faithfully



Seana Rice
Principal