

Dear Parent/Carer

## Summer 2020 Newsletter

I write to you at the end of a very peculiar year, a year that I imagine for us all has had its significant challenges. However, it is with great joy in my heart that the academy will be open to all year groups in September, it will be fantastic to see all the students back in their learning environment. It continues to be a privilege to lead the academy; it is such a supportive and friendly community, where everyone is committed to working together for the benefit of all. I would like to start by providing reassurance that our priority will continue to be the safety of everyone. We have and will continue to adapt and change to ensure we adhere to the guidelines issued by the government. We continue to develop both academic and personal skills, aiming to build resilience, confidence, dedication and a willingness to support others in our young people.

The information I have to share with you is extensive, so forgive me for the length of this letter but it is vitally important that everyone is well informed to help reduce any anxieties.

As you will expect and appreciate, structures and routines will not simply return to the 'normal' that we knew and a great deal of work has been done to ensure that all students and staff are as safe as possible. I detail below some of the key pieces of information so you are aware ahead of the summer break and I will write to you again in August to revisit these important points and any relevant updates.

Year 7 **ONLY** will return to the Academy on Wednesday 2 September, to be on site for 8.20 am  
All other year groups will return on **Thursday 3 September** at the times below.

In response to government guidance on maintaining social distance and avoiding unnecessary large gatherings of our young people, each morning there will be a slightly staggered start to the day to ensure students are on site safely and sensibly and can start each day with hygiene routines.

Staggered starts to the day are as follows:

Y7	8.00 am
Y8	8.05 am
Y9	8.10 am
Y10	8.15 am
Y11	8.20 am

Students should not gather together en-route to the academy and must enter straight into the academy via their designated route. Each year group will have a separate entrance and this will be signposted by staff on arrival on the first day back.

To prioritise safety, each year group will be seen as a separate 'bubble'. This means that each year group will be taught in a specific 'zone' of the academy and students will remain in their zone for the majority of their lessons, exceptions being when they have breaks and lunchtime and access to some specialist rooms.

Breaks and lunch times will also be in separate bubbles at different times. These measures are all to ensure high levels of safety are maintained whilst minimising transmission. I would encourage everyone to use Parentpay online to put money on your child's account to avoid handling money as outlined in government guidance. Information on parent pay can be found here: <https://www.parentpay.com/>

Outwood Grange Academies Trust, a company limited by guarantee registered in England and Wales with company number 06995649.

Registered office address: Potovens Lane, Outwood, Wakefield, West Yorkshire WF1 2PF.

VAT number: 158 2720 04. Outwood Grange Academies Trust is an exempt charity.

A list of Directors' names is open to inspection at our registered office.

## Uniform

Standards and expectations, as I know you would expect remain high. Students are expected to be in full academy uniform. Students are required to wear black shoes that can be **polished**, rather than boots or canvas/suede shoes. Socks must be plain black. Hair must be a natural colour, bands/bobbles must be **plain black or purple**, and should not be worn on wrists when not in use. All students must have a suitable bag to carry A4 books. Any coat worn must be large enough to go over the blazer. **Hoodies are not allowed**. For PE, students will require trainers without dark soles, and football boots. Full uniform information can be found here: <https://www.bydales.outwood.com/uniform>

## Learning

Teaching and learning will also look a little different this year. As directed by the government, students will be taught in rows and our teachers will teach from the front of the class. A significant element of next year will be ensuring all students 'catch up' any lost learning at pace. To do this we will continue to build on the values and work ethic that have been instilled in our students. I am sure you will agree our staff are incredibly passionate about putting 'Students First' through excellent teaching, coupled with willingness to give time and support outside the classroom, both academically and across other enrichment activities. Please support us by encouraging your child to attend all Enrichment and interventions that are available.

To ensure our students are ready for learning please organise for them to have the basic equipment listed below. If students have the majority of their own equipment it will also help to reduce transmission, therefore your support with this would be appreciated.

The basic equipment that is required from September is:

- A black pen
- A red pen
- A pencil and pencil sharpener
- An eraser
- A scientific calculator
- A school geometry set which should include a compass, a protractor, a 6 inch ruler and a set square
- A Collins Pocket English Dictionary or equivalent
- A Collins Pocket French Dictionary or equivalent

Students may also want to bring in their own whiteboard pen and highlighters. All students will be provided with a Planner on their first day. They are expected to have a school bag that is large enough to contain an A4 folder and all their equipment.

For PE lessons there will be different arrangements for specific groups and students will be informed by their PE teacher what will be required during their first PE lesson. For the first lesson students should bring their training shoes. If your child has grown out of their PE kit and you wish to donate it, the PE department would appreciate it.

## Curriculum

In year 8, I am delighted to inform you that many of our students will also be studying Spanish for one hour a week, in addition to French.

All year 9 students now have one hour of Digital Literacy each week. This will include areas such as word processing; analysis of data; understanding bias and reliability in internet sources; communicating effectively using technology and web design. These skills will be delivered through a series of projects which relate to our everyday lives.

### Attendance

You can view the academy term dates on our website here: [www.bydales.outwood.com/term-dates](http://www.bydales.outwood.com/term-dates)  
**Please do not book holidays during term-time.** With the lost learning due to COVID-19 the amount of time students spend in school and in lessons contributes hugely to the academic success our young people achieve. There is no 'slack time' and Praising Stars assessments, preparation and indeed GCSE coursework and exams/mocks will occur throughout the academic year. I am very grateful for the support we receive from parents and carers in this regard.

### Year 8 Graduation

Our year 8 students have worked hard and completed their graduation tasks and are ready to start their year 9 studies Congratulations! I have been very impressed with some of the excellent work produced. We will organise a celebration event next year at a time when appropriate in line with government guidelines on large group events.

### Results Day, Thursday 20 August

Students in both year 10 and year 11 (class of 2020) will be able to collect their result on results day. We will be operating a socially distanced event, with staggered arrival times and would ask students to arrive at the designated times listed below. Where students want to come with a family member we would like this to be limited to **only** one family member.

Students should enter through the Sports Hall fire door entrance; this will be marked out on the day. I look forward to celebrating with all our students on this special day.

#### Year 11 timings

A-E surname	F-J surname	K-O surname	P-T surname	U-Z surname
10 - 10.15am	10.20 - 10.35am	10.45 - 11am	11.05 - 11.20am	11.30 - 11.45am

#### Year 10 timings

A-J surname	K-S surname	T-Z surname
12-12.15pm	12.20-12.35pm	12.40-1pm

### Year 11 – Class of 2020 Prom

We have provisionally booked the date for the Prom; Thursday 1 October 2020. We will keep everyone up to date on arrangements after the summer term.

## Transport

Thank you for completing our joint travel survey with Redcar & Cleveland Borough Council. If you haven't already done so please follow the link below, it only takes a minute and helps the local authority with planning ahead for September. The short online survey can be accessed here: <https://forms.gle/FgJfqwTNmZpicRo7A>.

Guidance for the small number of students who use public transport can be found here: <https://www.gov.uk/guidance/coronavirus-covid-19-safer-travel-guidance-for-passengers#history>

Please remember that it is mandatory for everyone to wear face coverings when accessing public transport. These will not be provided by the academy so it is important that you source these yourself before September. Students will be able to dispose of their face covering on entry to the academy. If the face covering is reusable students must place the covering in a sealed, protective bag on arriving at school. Please ensure you remind your child of the importance of social distancing whilst walking to school or when queuing at bus stops. We would encourage students to walk or cycle to school wherever possible.

## COVID-19 Symptoms

I must reiterate the importance of following government guidance for the safety of students and staff. Please do not send your child into school if they are showing any symptoms including:

- A new continuous cough or high temperature
- A loss of, or change in, their normal sense of taste or smell

In this scenario you must ensure you keep your child at home, they self-isolate and are tested. Other members of your household (including siblings) should then self-isolate for 14 days from when the symptomatic person first had symptoms. Parents must also immediately inform the school once the test results are known.

For further detail please familiarise yourself with the government websites here:

[www.gov.uk/government/publications/covid-19-stay-at-home-guidance](http://www.gov.uk/government/publications/covid-19-stay-at-home-guidance)  
[www.gov.uk/guidance/coronavirus-covid-19-getting-tested](http://www.gov.uk/guidance/coronavirus-covid-19-getting-tested)

If your child tests negative, if they feel well and no longer have symptoms similar to coronavirus, they can stop self-isolating. They could still have another virus, such as a cold or flu, in which case it is still best to avoid contact with other people until they are better. Other members of their household can stop self-isolating if a test is negative.

If your child tests positive, they should follow the 'stay at home' guidance' above and must continue to self-isolate for at least 7 days from the beginning of their symptoms. They should only return to school if they no longer have symptoms other than cough or loss of sense of smell/taste. If they still have a high temperature, they should keep self-isolating until their temperature returns to normal. Other members of the household should continue self-isolating for the full 14 days.

## School Meals

I have already written to remind parents of the increase to school meal prices. The 'Meal of the Day' option is now £2.54. Going forward, due to the COVID-19 pandemic, water fountains across all schools are no longer in use. If students wish to bring their own water to school, please ensure a recyclable water bottle is used. For those students who wish to bring a packed lunch, a disposable bag must be used. Lunch boxes/bags are no longer allowed, due to government guidance received.

## Free School Meals

There will be a Free School Meal voucher that covers the summer break for families that qualify, including existing year 11. For families needing urgent help, please contact your local authority on 01642 774774 for information about the services and support available in your area.

## Hardship Policy

I would remind everyone about the Academy Hardship Policy. This fund is a discretionary source of financial help available to all registered full-time Academy students. The aim of the fund is to help students who have difficulties in paying for:

- Curriculum trips, visits and year group residential (up to 100% of the cost)
- Uniform, shoes or sports kit
- Other materials or equipment required for their academic studies
- Expenses to attend seminars, interviews or work experience placements
- Emergency travel expense

## Your Children may be eligible for a grant from our hardship fund if:

- A household income of below £25,000
- A student whose parents are currently claiming other means-tested benefits including Income Support, Working Tax Credit/Child Tax Credit, Income Based Employment and Support Allowance (ESA), Universal Credit, who is not entitled to free school meals
- At the decision of the Principal, any student who does not fall under the categories listed above, but consider themselves to be in financial hardship

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. In September please contact Miss Gates if you would be prepared to share this information with us. Miss Gates can be contacted via the school number 01642 474000 ext. 202 or via email at [k.gates@bydales.outwood.com](mailto:k.gates@bydales.outwood.com)

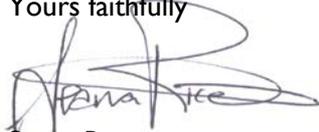
I have appreciated you writing to me with thanks to individual members of staff, particularly parents of Year 11 leavers, and it has been very moving when passing on your kind words. Thank you too for your support of our high standards.

Finally, we say goodbye to a number of staff: Mrs Ineson is retiring, she has supported the academy through her roles in Reprographics and as a Lunchtime Supervisor, and her excellent relationships with children have been valued by many over the years. Mr Parker has lead the History department since his arrival at Bydales in 1997, his Battlefield trips are legendary, Mr Parker is starting a promoted post within the Outwood Trust as a Director of Humanities. Mr Smith, who has taught PE at the academy since 2002, is moving to Outwood Academy Redcar. We also say farewell to Miss Slater, our Design and Technology Technician, and Miss Grantham, Learning Manager for Year 8, both are moving on to train to become teachers. Miss Glasper, teacher of Geography is moving to Outwood Academy Bishopsgarth. We also say goodbye to Mr Loudon, our ICT Technician, and Mrs Gerraghty, teacher of Science. We will miss our colleagues greatly but wish them well in the next step of their journey.

I hope you agree that despite the challenges, this year has been a successful one, as we continue to build a centre of learning excellence. This could not have happened without the support of parents and carers, and the faith of our wider community, and of course the hard work and commitment of students and staff alike.

I wish you and your family all the very best for a safe, and enjoyable summer.

Yours faithfully



Seana Rice  
Principal