



Our Ref: BW

26 June 2020

Dear Parents/Carers

We were very pleased to receive the announcement that schools can supplement the remote learning taking place with some face-to-face support for our students within the Academy.

It is a very unsettling time for us all but, rest assured, we are doing everything we can to make sure that our Academy is safe to open in order that we can welcome back students back for some much needed face-to-face support.

To this aim I have already discussed with you when your child's session date and time will be.

The session will last for 1 hour and students are expected to arrive no more than 5 minutes before their start time and are to enter the Academy via the back gates next to the Dining Room. If it is dry the students will line up 2m apart outside the Main Hall before being brought in by a member of staff. If it is raining, we will line the students up inside the Main Hall. A member of staff will then collect the students and escort them into the Main Hall. Each student has been allocated one desk and chair and the chair will not be used by any other students unless the government guidance changes. They do not need to bring any equipment or their planner.

During this session I will discuss your child's wellbeing needs with them. If students arrive for sessions that they have not been allocated to, they will be sent back home in order to maintain social distancing within the Academy.

Uniform

Uniform is not required during this session as we are aware that families may want to wear clothes that are easier to wash and dry upon their return home.

A number of extra procedures are in place to help prevent the spread of Covid-19:

Arrival at the academy

In order to maintain social distancing in the Academy, groups of students will be arriving at the Academy at different times, as well as using different entrances. Your child should only arrive at the Academy within 5 minutes of the time that they have been allocated. We would

also ask that you support the Academy in maintaining government guidance on social distancing by not gathering at the entrance or exit when you drop off or pick up your child and reinforce to them that social distancing is also required travelling both to and from the Academy.

Travelling to the academy by bike

The bike shed will be open for the safe storage of bikes. Students should use their own lock and wear a helmet.

Travelling by Public Transport

The guidance on face coverings has changed, it will be mandatory to wear a face covering on public transport from 15th June. Please use this link for further government guidance on face covering on public transport: <https://extranet.dft.gov.uk/safer-transport-campaign/> .

Personal Protective Equipment (PPE)

Current government guidance states that wearing a face covering or face mask in schools or other education settings is not recommended. In light of this, we will not require staff or students to wear face coverings (<https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/coronavirus-covid-19-implementing-protective-measures-in-education-and-childcare-settings/coronavirus-covid-19-implementing-protective-measures-in-education-and-childcare-settings>).

However, if students bring any disposable PPE into the Academy, special bins will be provided to ensure they are disposed of safely.

Students with Covid-19 symptoms

The current government guidance states that if your child is unwell with Covid-19 symptoms, then keep them at home and follow the [COVID-19: guidance for households with possible coronavirus \(COVID-19\) infection guidance](#) .

The current government guidance also states that if anyone in an education or childcare setting becomes unwell with a new, continuous cough or a high temperature, or has a loss of, or change in, their normal sense of taste or smell (anosmia), they must be sent home and advised to follow the COVID-19: guidance for households with possible coronavirus (COVID-19) infection guidance. In view of this if a student is unwell in the Academy and they show symptoms of coronavirus, they will be taken to a dedicated room in Main Reception and parents will be asked to collect them. Your child will then need to isolate for 7 days in line with government guidance. Parents will be expected to follow the Covid-19 guidance for households above. We will would ask that you to get your child tested as soon as possible.

If the Covid-19 test in this case is negative, your child can return to the Academy and join their allocated group.

If the test is positive, the rest of your child's group and the staff working with the group will be sent home and advised to self-isolate for 14 days. For further government guidance, follow this link <https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/coronavirus-covid-19-implementing-protective-measures-in-education-and-childcare-settings/coronavirus-covid-19-implementing-protective-measures-in-education-and-childcare-settings>

Other students attending the Academy apart from Year 9 students receiving face to face support.

The Academy will continue to be open for vulnerable pupils and the children of critical workers. These students will use Main Reception as their entrance and will be in a separate zone of the school to the academic staff running the Year 10 face to face sessions, who are using classrooms on the humanities corridor and maths corridor. The Y9 face to face sessions will be held in the Main Hall.

Attendance to the sessions in the Academy

We will continue to keep you updated with all our preparations for making sure the Academy is as safe as possible, in order that you and your child can make an informed decision about whether they wish to attend. However, if your child is unable to come into the Academy for their sessions, you must inform us for safeguarding reasons. You can let us know in the usual way by calling the Academy and leaving a message for the attendance team. For further government guidance on attendance follow this link

<https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/closure-of-educational-settings-information-for-parents-and-carers/reopening-schools-and-other-educational-settings-from-1-june>

Lunch and break time

Students will not be having break time or lunch time since they are in the Academy for a short period of time.

Things to bring to the Academy

In order to reduce the risk of contamination and infection, we are encouraging students not to bring their school bag or planner to the Academy. Any equipment they need will be provided for them.

Social distancing and other safety measures around the Academy

Based on a comprehensive risk assessment that we have conducted, the following measures have also been put in place to maintain social distancing and to reduce the risk of infection:

- Classrooms rearranged in line with government social distancing guidelines
- A one-way system around the Academy
- Different groups of students using different designated entrances and exits
- Different groups of students using designated toilets
- Markings outside and inside the building to ensure students are maintaining 2-metre walking distances
- Hand sanitisers in every classroom, entrances and exits
- Tissues in every classroom
- Individual equipment for all students (no sharing of equipment)
- Students will use the same classroom each time they are in the Academy and will not be moving between classrooms
- Students will stay in the same small group or 'bubble'
- More frequent cleaning of surfaces and key areas around the Academy

Should you have any further questions, please do not hesitate to contact us at enquiries@valley.outwood.com .

We would like to take the opportunity to thank you for your continuous support in helping your child learn from home. We have been overwhelmed by the positive comments and work produced by our students.

Yours sincerely

Mrs Ward

Mrs Ward
Y9 Learning Manager