



5th January 2021

Dear Parent / Carer

I wrote to you last week following the Government's announcement just before the New Year about when pupils would return to school this term.

I am sorry to be writing to you again so soon on this subject. However, as you may have seen, the Prime Minister has, yesterday evening, announced a new national lockdown because of rising infection rates of Covid-19 and to try to prevent the further spread of the virus.

As part of this, all primary schools, secondary schools and colleges in England, including our school, Outwood Academy Valley, are to be closed from today until at least the end of half term in February, except for children of key workers or vulnerable children. Early years settings remain open.

The Prime Minister also announced that "not all exams" would go ahead as normal this year and that there would be alternative arrangements. He said the Government would set out further details on this at a later date, and when that information is announced, we will update parents of students due to take exams this year. In the meantime ALL pupils must engage with their online learning via Google Classroom.

From today:

If you or your partner is a key worker, or if your child is classed as vulnerable, then the school will remain open, as now, and we look forward to seeing them in school tomorrow and beyond as normal for teaching and learning.

As you know, we have worked incredibly hard since the start of the pandemic in March to keep our school as safe as possible, and I would like to take this opportunity to remind you of the safety measures in place at our school:

- All students and staff must wear a face covering in communal areas, unless exempt
- Everyone is expected to remain in their allocated bubbles
- Students are encouraged to wash their hands regularly throughout the day

Please note we are trying to work with windows open in classrooms for ventilation. As the cold days have returned, and with the need for ventilation in mind, pupils may need a few more layers of clothing. Therefore we are not asking students to wear uniform during this lockdown period but ask that they wear suitable items such as fleeces and sweatshirts on top of their T shirts and warm thick tights with skirts or long trousers/jeans.

For all other pupils, our school is closed until at least the end of the February half-term. High-quality remote learning will be provided to make sure they continue to receive a consistent education. We know that this places pressure on you at a difficult time but your support in helping your child engage with the remote learning packs as much as possible is so important and we are very grateful for it. Our aim is to offer as many live lessons as possible with teachers and students following their normal timetable. Exceptions will be core PE, Year 7 and Year 8 art, music and drama as well as the Year 7 and Year 8 technology practical lessons. In these cases, alternative tasks will be set on Google Classroom which should

be completed at the appropriate point in your child's timetable. Learning Brilliance in Year 9 will be via a link to a video lesson allowing students to pause the video and progress at their own pace. Where staff are absent or unwell, it may also not be possible to provide live lessons and again alternative work will be set in Google Classroom. Students will access the codes for live lessons through Google Classroom and should ensure their camera is turned off and microphone muted at the start of the lesson. The timetable starts at 8.45am and at present there will not be a remote tutor period.

We will continue to stay in touch with you on this matter, and about your child's education. However, do let me know if you would like to discuss this matter, or if you require any support relating to these new arrangements.

I would once again like to take this opportunity to thank you wholeheartedly for your understanding and ongoing support in helping us to manage this unprecedented situation. Please continue to take care and to stay safe.

Yours faithfully

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'D. Cavill'. The signature is written in a cursive style with a large initial 'D' and a small 'Cavill' following.

Mr D Cavill
Principal