

June 2020

Dear Parent / Carer

Thank for your responses to our surveys and phone-calls sharing with us your intentions around your child accessing face to face provision from the 15th June. Our academic tutors who have been making phone-calls to their tutees in Year 10 have shared what a great experience it has been to talk to you and your child and mutually make plans for our wider reopening. It has been reassuring to hear of the large percentage of students who intend to access the face-to-face provision, and we recognise how this crisis has been different for each individual.

Please let me reassure you that our priority is to support the wellbeing of students first, and support their transition into Year 11; and then focus on their academic progress, supplementing the remote learning.

Our teachers and support staff have been working tirelessly to modify the academy, our delivery methods and our curriculum to meet the needs of students on their return and most importantly to keep everyone safe.

I am looking forward in the coming days to share a film which shows the adaptations we have made to the academy, from the moment you walk through the gates and through to our corridors and classrooms. This is all vital work to ensure we can adhere to social distancing effectively.

You should by now have received a personal invitation for your child, outlining the dates and times they should attend and the gates they should arrive at. It is essential that we all strictly follow these plans as they have been devised for staggered starts, one-way systems and zones within the academy site. If you have not received this information, please contact us via the academy website.

The following information outlines some key updates for you to be aware of;

Contacting the academy from the 15th June

From the Monday 15th June our academy reception will be open from 08:30 until 14:30. Please use the phone service on 01302 722237 rather than physically entering the academy site. This is to ensure that we can communicate - but to limit the number of people on site at any one time, supporting social distancing.

Attendance

The Government announced as part of wider opening that from Monday 15th June secondary schools should offer some face-to-face support to supplement the remote education of Year 10 and Year

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.

12 students who are due to take exams next year. Children in these year groups are strongly encouraged to attend the tutor and academic periods that they have been invited too.

The following groups will not be expected to attend, but it is important that the academy is informed

- No one with Covid-19 should attend a setting for any reason.
- Children, young people and staff who have been classed as clinically extremely vulnerable due to pre-existing medical conditions have been advised to shield.

The Government categories for clinically vulnerable groups can be found at;

<https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/guidance-on-shielding-and-protecting-extremely-vulnerable-persons-from-covid-19/guidance-on-shielding-and-protecting-extremely-vulnerable-persons-from-covid-19>

If your child cannot attend (for any reason) the sessions that they have been invited to, it is important that parents / carers contact the academy attendance team on 01302 722237 Ext 221 / 220.

Transport and safe travel

The Government advice states that parents, children and young people should be encouraged to walk or cycle where possible, and avoid public transport at peak times. But, I recognise that a number of students live a significant distance from the academy.

The latest advice states that a face covering should cover your mouth and nose, while allowing you to breathe comfortably when using public transport. It is important to use face coverings properly and wash your hands before putting them on and after taking it off.

We have purposely staggered the timings of school sessions and limited the numbers attending at the same time, therefore limiting numbers requiring public transport at the same time, especially at peak travel points in the day.

As walking and cycling has been advised we will ensure that there is access to the bike sheds.

More details on travel guidance can be located at;

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

Drop-off and collection

We would appreciate that if you are dropping off students at the academy that this is done outside of the academy gates and at a reasonable distance to enable other students to pass by and socially distance.

Behaviour

As I am sure you will appreciate we have very high expectations of all students when they attend sessions in the academy in the interest of the health, safety and wellbeing of everyone in the building. In the light of changes to our provision an addendum has been added to our behaviour policy, outlining our expectations around aspects such as social distancing and responsible, respectful and safe behaviour. I would appreciate if you could make yourself aware of this update via the policies section of our website.

I look forward to seeing students return to the academy as part of our wider opening and I hope that you can have confidence in the updates that we are making in the interests of staff and student safety. If you have any questions, please contact us via the school website.

Yours sincerely



Andy Scruby
Principal

