

July 2020

Dear Parent/Carer

I do hope that you and your family have continued to stay safe and well during these unusual and challenging times.

It is difficult for me to grasp the fact that we are coming to the end of 2019/2020 academic year, a year that will never be forgotten not only due to the pandemic, but to the way our parents, students and staff have adapted to the changes in the way of learning and as to how the Class of 2020 acted with such maturity during an important time during their education. However, I wish to reassure you at the forefront of any decisions we make about your child's return to school, the safety of students and staff is of the utmost importance.

We fully support the Government's announcement enabling students return to school in September, as we believe that school is a crucial part of their development and vital in supporting them with their life chances.

The Senior Leadership Teams within the academy and the Trust are working closely preparing the premises and our procedures to ensure a safe and controlled environment for our students and so that we may deliver the curriculum, which not only works with your child's academic need but includes supporting their wellbeing needs too. A thorough risk assessment has taken place and is available for you to on our website, www.foxhills.outwood.com.

Attendance

It is the expectation that all students will return to the academy as the government outlines mandatory attendance for all students with exception to those who are deemed clinically vulnerable by a medical professional.

Uniform

Students are required to attend each academy day in full school uniform. Shoes must be plain black and of leather or leather like material. Trainers, boots, logos and canvas shoes are not permitted. Tights and socks must be black and tights should be opaque.

Covid-19 symptoms

If any member of the academy community, students or staff should develop symptoms of Covid-19 they should not attend the academy. The symptoms should be reported to the academy at the earliest opportunity and those affected should seek testing, communicating the outcome with the academy. This will trigger the test and trace systems working in conjunction with the Local Authority and Public Health England.

Key dates for September

- 2nd & 3rd September 2020 The academy will be closed to students for academy staff INSET days
- 4th September 2020 The academy will be open to year 7 students only
- 7th September 2020 The academy will be open to all year groups

**The academy calendar and regular updates can be found on our website.*

Bubbles & Zones

We are committed to delivering an ambitious, broad and balanced curriculum, with controls which mitigate transmission risks. The school is organised into year group bubbles, where whilst in school students will only come into contact with students in their own year group. Each bubble has been designated a zone within the school where they will receive the majority of their lessons, supplemented by controlled movement when classes access more specialised areas such as Science, IT, Art, Music and PE.

Curriculum

Whilst over the past 4 months we have endeavoured to deliver an online remote learning platform, we recognise it will never have the impact of students working directly with teachers in the classroom. Our subject Directors are working in tandem with Heads of Department to develop schemes of work and high quality lessons that will rapidly fill gaps in learning, and re-engage students as they return to the classroom. This with our Praising Stars system will enable us to identify personal needs and intervene quickly and effectively.

Staggered timings

We are conscious of minimising pinch-points and potential student gatherings such as at the start and end of the day both in school and in the local community. Therefore, we have introduced staggered start and finish times for the academy day.

Year	Arrival time	Entrance to Academy	Lessons Start	End of the normal school day	After School Enrichment ends	Exit from Academy
7	8:15	Foxhills Road - Reception	8:25	14:30	N/A	Foxhills Rd
8	8:15	Reginald Road - Quad	8:25	14:30	N/A	Reginald Rd
9	8:15	Foxhills Road – Sports Hall	8:25	14:30	N/A	Foxhills Rd
10	8:35	Reginald Road – Tennis Courts	8:45	14:50	15:30	Reginald Rd
11	8:35	Foxhills Road – Reception Quad	8:45	14:50	15:30	Foxhills Rd

Please may we ask that siblings, who are due into school at different times, to arrive separately as it is important to restrict contact with other students, from other bubbles, to prioritise safe distancing. It is also necessary for students to arrive at the time allocated to their year group to ensure they are punctual to their lessons within their bubbles. We have installed outdoor hand washing facilities at the entrance and exits of the building. All students will wash their hands and sanitise when entering the academy, before lunch and at other times scheduled during the day.

Staggered breaks and lunch times

Break and lunch times are staggered in 2 dinner zones over 3 sittings, to ensure each year group bubble is accessing a dining area at any one time. Hot and cold dinner options are available and free school meal entitlement for eligible students are in place.

Tutor groups

We have changed our tutor groups from September to ensure that students are in tutor groups from the same year group. This allows us to deliver age and stage related pastoral support whilst maintaining the year group bubbles.

Behaviour

Our behaviour system is built upon three key principles, “be respectful, be responsible and be safe”. This has never been more important than in our current circumstances. We always have very high expectations of our students and we will be very clear in our expectations such as; adhering to social distancing, hygiene controls, movement around the academy, attitudes to learning and respecting safe practice for themselves, their peers and adults. We appreciate your support in relaying these expectations from home and the importance of positive behaviour at all times.

Travel

Our student catchment covers a vast area and we are conscious of how students travel to the academy and how this relates to our bubbles and social distancing, linking back to how and why we have staggered the academy day. The Government advises students to walk, cycle or travel by car to school. In some cases, where students will be required to use public transport, students must wear a mask on public transport to limit the risk of transmission.

PPE

Students are not required to wear PPE other than the current guidance for wearing masks on public transport. Should a student wish to remove their face masks when they arrive at school, they should be careful not to touch the front of their face covering during use or when removing them. Temporary face coverings should be disposed of in the bins at the academy entrances, reusable face coverings should be placed in a plastic bag for students to take home with them.

Local lockdowns & self-isolation

Should there be a future spike in local Covid-19 cases we will work with the Local Authority and Public Health England in taking action quickly, and we have systems in place to deliver immediate remote education provision for any students unable to access the academy.

Communication

We welcome your communication through our contact us button on the website so that we can work together transitioning students back into the academy. Please continue to follow the academy via Twitter and updates on our website.

Visitors

Due to Government guidelines it has been asked that schools do not have visitors to the academy without prior notice, therefore, they have advised schools to ensure that parents/carers & external agencies are to make appointments to come into school. This will allow us to ensure that social distancing is in place and the necessary arrangements are made to meet safely.

Throughout the past 4 months there have been a number of ways that we have adapted and found ways of working that have allowed for effective education. We have now reached a phase in these challenging times where we can return to full time education, however, we recognise that the impact of this pandemic affects each individual differently. We understand that some of our students may be anxious about returning to school and wish to reassure you that we will continue to provide pastoral support that is needed for you and your child's wellbeing. Learning managers and inclusion specialists are also based within each of the teaching zones to provide support for students within each of the bubbles.

I hope that you have a great summer break and we look forward to working with you and your child in the new academic year.

Yours faithfully



Darren Smith
Principal