

7 September 2020

Dear parents/carers

It was a pleasure to welcome back students last week to a new year ahead. Students, as I would expect, were absolutely fantastic, they adapted very well to the new systems and expectations. Returning for some young people and adults was a daunting task, but everyone has put their best foot forward and have shown real resilience in the return to school. Our students are a credit to themselves, their families and the academy, I am really proud of them. I would like to thank all parents and carers for their support in securing an excellent start to the year; our students arrived ready for learning with the correct uniform and equipment and that all important positive attitude for learning, because together we can all ensure our young people succeed.

In my welcome 'virtual' assembly I was able to celebrate the successes of all the students who received their GCSE qualifications in August. Yet again as an academy, we were delighted with the achievements of all our young people.

After our first day back, as part of our risk assessment procedures myself and the senior leadership team reviewed how all the procedures in place had worked with the full school return. I spoke to all classes on Friday and emphasised the importance of using a face covering in areas where it is more difficult to maintain social distancing, I explained that we are 'highly recommending' that students wear a face covering in such areas. On their first day of return all students received instruction on how to wear a face covering. As you will be aware our academy is extremely popular and is full, therefore we have large numbers of students in the building. Please encourage your child to wear a face covering when they are entering and exiting the academy, moving around the corridors and at social time break and lunch queues, your support with this is greatly appreciated.

WHO instructional videos can be found here: <https://www.who.int/emergencies/diseases/novel-coronavirus-2019/advice-for-public/when-and-how-to-use-masks>

We are staggering student exit at the end of the day, with year 7 and year 8 finishing lessons a little earlier so they are out of the building ready to leave the site at 2.30pm when the bell goes. Year 9, 10 and 11 leave their class rooms on the bell, via their own exit and line up so duty staff can manage the exit of each year group separately, therefore these years leave site a little later. Over the next few weeks Enrichment opportunities will commence and this will help to reduce pressure on students exiting the building at 2.30pm.

I would ask you to refer to my August letter for procedures regarding COVID19 symptoms and family bereavements, so together we can best support families.

Our academy risk assessment can be found here: <https://www.bydales.outwood.com/sept2020>

## **Communication**

We encourage all parents/carers to communicate with colleagues in the academy. The student planner can be used to communicate with the academy, parents/carers should sign their child's planner every week as these are checked weekly in tutor time. Parents/carers can contact their child's tutor directly as a first point of contact, students see their tutor first thing every day. Contact email addressed can be found on the academy website here: [www.bydales.outwood.com/contact](http://www.bydales.outwood.com/contact) under Key Contacts.

If you have an issue relating to a specific subject your child is studying, you should contact their particular subject teacher or subject Head of Department.

You can also contact your child's Learning Manager; the Learning Managers are responsible for your child's year group:

Year 7: Mrs Reid

Year 8: Mrs Reid

Year 9: Mrs Bade

Year 10: Mr Page

Year 11: Mr Burton

If you wish to discuss any issues regarding special educational needs or disabilities, please contact the Academy SENCo, Miss Shallow.

May I also request that any changes to your contact details, such change of address or telephone number, is communicated to us as quickly as possible so that we may amend our systems. Please email our Data and Exams Officer, Marissa Hedley at [m.hedley@bydales.outwood.com](mailto:m.hedley@bydales.outwood.com)

## Community

Community relationships are extremely important to the academy and we have the highest expectations for students not only whilst they attend the academy but also as they journey to and from the academy, we expect all our students to be respectful and responsible at all times. I would take this opportunity to remind everyone of the following to ensure all our students are safe:

- Students must use the crossings to cross the road both outside and inside the academy
- We would request that anyone who is collecting a child from the academy kindly follow these expectations:
  - the turning circle in the academy grounds should only be accessed by disability badge holders at the start/end of the academy day
  - the speed bumps are for ensuring traffic speed is slow
  - do not park on the yellow lines
  - Churchill Drive is not a route to the school. The signage at both ends is clear that it is a road for access only and residents. Please, in particular, do not park on Churchill Drive anywhere near the junction with the Coast Road as this obscures vision for students crossing the road and for the staff supervising them
  - take care when dropping students on the road by 'The Ship', there has been an increase of cars making U-turns at the opening of the road by the 'The Ship'.

## E-safety

I would also like to remind parents and carers that advice and guidance regarding e-safety, being safe online/social media can be found at: <https://www.thinkuknow.co.uk/parents/>  
<https://www.internetmatters.org>

Last academic year we had an increase in issues related to unsafe behaviour on-line/social media taking place outside of academy hours, including during lockdown. I would urge parents/carers to remind their young people that behaving safely, respectfully and responsibly should be a priority not only in the 'real' world but also when communicating online/using social media.

If any parents/carers would like further advice regarding issues of e-safety please contact Miss Peacock, Assistant Principal via [g.peacock@bydales.outwood.com](mailto:g.peacock@bydales.outwood.com)

## **Being safe and healthy**

We have a number of students and staff in the academy who suffer with severe asthma. NO AEROSOLS are allowed in the academy as these can trigger asthma attacks. We are concerned about health and wellbeing of our young people and the increasing amount of fizzy drinks and 'family sized' sweets and biscuits some students are bringing into the academy to consume. These are not conducive to good health but they also impact on a young person's ability to learn effectively. These items should not be brought into the academy, if they are they will be confiscated.

## **Cycling**

We encourage students to travel sustainably and we want to ensure when our young people are cycling to and from the academy they have the skills and knowledge to ensure they keep themselves and others safe.

There will be a bike safety awareness presentation for students who wish to cycle to the academy, this will take place in their tutor time over the next few weeks. Myself and members of the leadership team have spoken to all students who ride to the academy underlining the absolute importance of helmet wearing as there are still some students who are riding to the academy without a helmet, this is of significant concern. If you are sending your child to the academy on a bike please help to make sure they are safe and wearing a helmet. All students will require a bike permit, the permit will be issued by Mr Middleton, Associate Vice Principal. Mr Middleton will also share a virtual bike safety awareness presentation for parents and carers to access, this will be available to access from Monday 14 September on the academy website.

## **Well-being**

The mental health and wellbeing of all of our students is paramount and we recognise that these are challenging times for many young people and their families. We are interested in the impact of this challenging period on our young people, and also want to understand how students are feeling and responding to the present situation so that we can provide the support they need. You will receive a letter from Mr Middleton with more detail on how we are undertaking this. Remember you can access support for mental health and well-being via the 'Green Button' on our website.

## **Attendance**

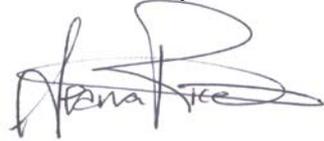
You can view the academy term dates on our website here: [www.bydales.outwood.com/term-dates](http://www.bydales.outwood.com/term-dates) I am very grateful for the support we receive from parents and carers with attendance. 'Catch up' learning is a priority for all this year, with this in mind, please do not book holidays during term-time.

## **Behaviour expectations**

All students received information regarding the new arrangements for the behaviour policy in tutor time last week. You can view the policy here: <https://www.bydales.outwood.com/policies>. Our behaviour policy promotes positive behaviour to ensure our students grow into safe, respectful and responsible citizens and ensures they learn in a calm environment. We use a number of tools to specifically support students develop the correct behaviours which helps prepare them for life once they leave our academy. Please refer to my letter dated 20 August for detail regarding the consequences system. Working together with a fair and consistent approach creates an environment where all young people can flourish, learn from their mistakes and develop the necessary work place skills, attitudes and attributes.

Once again all staff at Bydales are looking forward to working with you all this coming year, until further notice our normal academy events will take place virtually. Your continued support is appreciated during the continued challenging circumstances we all find ourselves in.

Yours sincerely

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Seana Rice".

Seana Rice  
Principal