

16 July 2021

Dear Parent/Carer

### **Summer 2021 Newsletter**

I write to you at the end of another very peculiar year, that I imagine has had its significant challenges for all of us. Our students and staff have demonstrated tremendous resilience, confidence, and dedication to teaching and learning alongside a willingness to support others. I am humbled by how our academy community has pulled together and adapted to every change and challenge placed in front of us throughout this year. It continues to be a privilege to lead the academy; it is such a supportive and friendly community, where everyone is committed to working together for the benefit of all. As always I would like to provide reassurance that our priority will continue to be the safety of everyone. We will continue to adapt and change to ensure we adhere to the guidelines issued by the government.

At the end of the year, in preparation for a successful start in September I have a lot of information to share with you to ensure everyone is well informed, and help reduce any anxieties.

At the time of writing this letter it is our expectation that when we return in September we will return to some 'normal' expectations in line with government guidance. If expectations change over the summer period I will contact you to inform you of any changes.

**All students will return on Monday 6 September.** There will be **no staggered starts** to the day, all students are expected to arrive and be in the building by 8.20am, ready for learning. All students will use the student entrance.

Students will still be expected to adhere to good hand hygiene routines and will be expected to sanitise their hands on entry to the building and when moving from classroom to classroom.

### **iPay**

From September 2021 we will be using iPayImpact for all school purchases, including school meals. Letters for individual parents containing details of how to access iPay and add funds have been sent to individual parents. Please be aware that ParentPay will no longer be in use. All payments will be made online for all school purchases through iPay. Students starting in Year 7 in September will receive iPay logins in September and will receive free school meals until iPay is in place for them.

### **Uniform**

Standards and expectations, as I know you would expect, remain high. Students are expected to be in full academy uniform. Students are required to wear black shoes that can be **polished**, rather than boots or canvas/suede shoes. **Socks must be plain black. Hair colour must be natural**, bands/bobbles must be **plain black or purple**, and should not be worn on wrists when not in use. All

students must have a suitable bag to carry A4 books. Any coat worn must be large enough to go over the blazer. **Hoodies are not allowed.** For PE, students will require trainers without dark soles, and football boots. Tights must be at least 40 denier and free of holes. Full uniform information can be found here: <https://www.bydales.outwood.com/uniform>

## Learning

To ensure our students are ready for learning please organise for them to have the basic equipment listed below. If students have the majority of their own equipment it will also help to reduce transmission, therefore your support with this would be appreciated.

The basic equipment that is required from September is:

- A black pen;
- A red pen;
- A pencil and pencil sharpener;
- An eraser;
- A scientific calculator;
- A school geometry set which should include a compass, a protractor, a 6 inch ruler
- A Collins Pocket English Dictionary or equivalent;
- A Collins Pocket French Dictionary or equivalent.

Students may also want to bring in their own whiteboard pen and highlighters. All students will be provided with a planner on their first day. They are expected to have a school bag that is large enough to contain an A4 folder and all of their equipment.

For PE lessons there will be different arrangements for specific groups and students will be informed by their PE teacher what will be required during their first PE lesson. For the first lesson students should bring their training shoes. If your child has grown out of their PE kit and you wish to donate it, the PE department would very much appreciate it.

We will continue to focus on ensuring all students continue to 'catch up' any lost learning. To do this we build on the values and work ethic that have been instilled in our students. I am sure you will agree our staff are incredibly passionate about putting 'Students First' through excellent teaching, coupled with a willingness to give time and support outside the classroom, both academically and across other enrichment activities. **Please support us by encouraging your child to attend all Enrichment and interventions that are available.**

## Curriculum

For students in year 9 going into year 10, as part of our recovery plan, we have increased humanities and languages to 3 hours per week. In addition all EBacc subjects will continue into year 11. For students in year 8 going into year 9 we are currently reviewing our vocational qualifications, further details will follow in the new academic year.

## 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)  
**Please do not book holidays during term-time, they will not be authorised, under any circumstances, exceptional circumstances are not applied for holiday requests.** With the

lost learning due to COVID19 the amount of time students spend in school and in lessons contributes hugely to the academic success that our young people achieve. There is no 'slack time' and Praising Stars assessments, preparation and indeed GCSE coursework and exams/mocks will occur throughout the academic year. I am very grateful for the support we receive from parents and carers in this regard.

### **Results day Thursday 12 August**

Students in both Year 10 and Year 11 will be able to collect their results on results day. We will be operating a socially distanced event, with staggered arrival times and would ask students to arrive at the designated times listed below. Where students want to come with a family member we would like this to be limited to **only** one family member.

Students should enter through the Sports Hall fire door entrance. We look forward to celebrating with all our students on this special day.

#### Year 11 timings

A-E surname	F-J surname	K-O surname	P-T surname	U-Z surname
10.00 - 10.15am	10.15 - 10.30am	10.30 - 10.45am	10.45 - 11.00am	11.00 - 11.15am

#### Year 10 timings

A-J surname	K-S surname	T-Z surname
11.15-11.30am	11.30-11.45am	11.45-12.00pm

Any results not collected, will be posted to the home address on the afternoon of Thursday 12 August 2021.

### **Travelling to and from the academy**

We encourage students to walk or cycle to school wherever possible. If your child is cycling to the academy we expect them to **wear a helmet** to ensure they are safe. Students are advised to wear appropriate reflective clothing and bike lights when visibility is poor. Please support us with these safety expectations. During the first weeks of return in September students will receive information regarding cycling expectations from Mr Middleton, this will include information on making sure they have a cycle permit. All students cycling **MUST** have a permit. Parents are advised to take out their

own appropriate insurance cover as the academy's insurance does not cover loss or damage to bicycles, including when stored at the academy.

If your child travels by public transport please make sure you advise your child of any government expectations, check relevant travel websites. Presently it is mandatory for everyone to wear face coverings when accessing public transport, however this may change over the summer.

Positive community relationships are very important to the academy, our students are representing the academy when they are travelling to and from the academy, we have the same high expectations for students when travelling. We expect students to mind their manners and be polite, giving consideration to others, this includes not crowding the pavement restricting the movement of others, appropriate language and volume of conversation. The vast majority of our students demonstrate considerate behaviour at all times and we are very proud of them. All students must use the crossing to cross the main road and not just cross the busy Coast Road for obvious safety reasons. I would further ask for the support of parents/carers to be very mindful where they are parking when dropping off and collecting students. **Churchill drive is a no entry except for access** and please adhere to the double yellow lines within the academy site. Please do not use the path opposite the academy to park or do U turns. When we all work together to maintain the highest of standards we create great community relations.

### **COVID-19 Symptoms** (This information is correct until 19 July 2021)

I must reiterate the importance of following government guidance for the safety of students and staff. Please do not send your child in if they are showing any symptoms including:

- New continuous cough or high temperature;
- A loss of, or change in, their normal sense of taste or smell.

In this scenario you must ensure you keep your child at home, they self-isolate and are tested. Other members of your household (including siblings) should then self-isolate for 10 days from when the symptomatic person first had symptoms. Parents must also immediately inform the school once the test results are known.

For further detail please familiarise yourself with the government websites here:

[www.gov.uk/government/publications/covid-19-stay-at-home-guidance](https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/covid-19-stay-at-home-guidance)

[www.gov.uk/guidance/coronavirus-covid-19-getting-tested](https://www.gov.uk/guidance/coronavirus-covid-19-getting-tested)

If your child tests negative, if they feel well and no longer have symptoms similar to coronavirus, they can stop self-isolating. They could still have another virus, such as a cold or flu, in which case it is still best to avoid contact with other people until they are better. Other members of their household can stop self-isolating if a test is negative.

If your child tests positive, they should follow the 'stay at home' guidance' above and must continue to self-isolate for at least 7 days from the beginning of their symptoms. They should only return to school if they no longer have symptoms other than cough or loss of sense of smell/taste. If they still have a high temperature, they should keep self-isolating until their temperature returns to normal. Other members of the household should continue self-isolating for the full 10 days.

## **School Meals**

I have already written to remind parents of the increase to school meal prices. The 'Meal of the Day' option is currently £2.54. From September the price will increase to £2.65. If students wish to bring their own water to school, please ensure a recyclable water bottle is used. For those students who wish to bring a packed lunch, a disposable bag must be used. Lunch boxes/bags are no longer allowed, due to government guidance received.

## **Hardship Policy**

I would remind everyone about the Academy Hardship Policy. This fund is a discretionary source of financial help available to all registered full-time Academy students. The aim of the fund is to help students who have difficulties in paying for:

- Curriculum trips, visits and year group residential (up to 100% of the cost);
- Uniform, shoes or sports kit;
- Other materials or equipment required for their academic studies;
- Expenses to attend seminars, interviews or work experience placements;
- Emergency travel expenses.

## **Your Children may be eligible for a grant from our hardship fund if:**

A household income of below £25,000

- A student whose parents are currently claiming other means-tested benefits including Income Support, Working Tax Credit/Child Tax Credit, Income Based Employment and Support Allowance (ESA), Universal Credit, who is not entitled to free school meals
- At the decision of the Principal, any student who does not fall under the categories listed above, but consider themselves to be in financial hardship

Please contact reception and ask for a copy of the Hardship Policy if you wish to apply. You must provide proof of benefits along with your application.

## **Visits and career related activities**

Twenty Y8 students had the opportunity to visit practice WWI trenches that had been uncovered by a team of archeologists working on behalf of the Sofia wind farm project. Students were able to see the zig zag formations of the trenches and the archeologists explained that the soldiers practiced digging trenches before heading to the Western front. GGR explained the local historical context of the area to the students and that the field was a WW2 airfield but the fact that they had found trenches indicated WWI and that was new information! Students were able to use their knowledge from previous lessons to discuss trenches and their purposes with staff. The dig site is in the field next to the school grounds so staff were able to walk students to the site.

We held 2 lunchtime College 'drop ins' with Prior Pursglove, Middlesbrough College, Redcar College, Askham Bryan College and the Northern School of art, Careers Inc were also in attendance.

We have had a fantastic sign up for the National Citizenship Service programme from our Year 11 students, I look forward to hearing about all the great work they will be undertaking over the summer period.

Finally, we say goodbye to a number of staff: Mrs Farmer is retiring, she has supported the academy through her work as a food technician in Design and Technology and as a lunchtime supervisor, her excellent relationships with children have been valued by many children over the years. Ms Hansford is also retiring; she has led the MFL and Humanities department since her arrival at Bydales in 2003. Her excellent leadership and teaching will be missed. We are also saying farewell to Miss Conroy (English), Mrs Wing (LRC manager) Mr Welch (Science), Miss Parker (Science), Mrs Everitt (Teaching Assistant), Miss Hatton (Teaching Assistant), Miss Kandel (Teaching Assistant), Mrs Feather (Teaching Assistant), Mrs Mitford (lunchtime supervisor), Mrs Duncan (Consequences Manager) Miss Nicholas (Principals PA), Mrs Steele, a member of our catering team is also retiring, she has been part of the catering team at Bydales since 1991.

We will miss our colleagues greatly but wish them well in the next step of their journey.

I hope you will agree that despite the challenges, our staff have excelled in their efforts to ensure the year has been a successful one, as we continue to build a centre of learning excellence. This could not have happened without the support of parents and carers, and the faith of our wider community, and of course the hard work and commitment of students and staff alike.

I wish you and your family all the very best for a safe, and enjoyable summer.

Yours faithfully

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Seana Rice', written in a cursive style.

Seana Rice

Principal