

21 May 2020

Dear Parent/Carer

As you will be aware, the government has asked schools to begin to plan to open for more students from early June, specifically year 10 and 12 students in secondary schools. I am writing to give you some details of our planning.

We will, of course, continue to maintain our provision that we have offered since March to the children of critical workers and vulnerable children. These arrangements remain unchanged. We are already in contact with these parents.

My absolute priority moving forward is to ensure that we only open to more students if and when it is safe to do so. I am working with my team to carry out a robust risk assessment to inform my decision-making.

At this point, I would like to make it very clear that my expectation, in line government guidance, is that this will be phased with very small numbers in the academy at any one time. This will be for year 10 (and 12) only for the summer term, alongside our critical worker and vulnerable children provision. All other year groups will continue with their online learning and will not be in school.

In order to ensure that I have an accurate overview of the number of students who are likely to return to school in June, it would help me if you would let me know if your intention is to send your child(ren) to school to access the limited provision that will be offered. This information will allow me to plan for safe staffing levels to support the children in the academy.

This will not be normal school provision and will be part-time and operate in line with social distancing measures, and in line with the government guidance. This provision will allow some face to face contact with students in year 10 and 12 to complement their online learning to help progress their studies further during the summer term.

The link to the survey is <https://forms.gle/Kd8EAQGUBeL6bmk46> It will also be sent to you by text but you only need to complete the survey **once** for each child. Please complete this survey by Thursday May 28th.

Our Approach to Opening

1. From 1st June, we will contact students in year 10 to discuss arrangements for the face to face support they will receive prior to the summer break.
2. Year 12 students will receive contact through their Post 16 tutors week commencing 8 June at the earliest to discuss arrangements for the face to face support they will receive prior to the summer break.
3. Once these arrangements are made, the face to face contact will be initially to meet with a member of school staff for a short time, such as 1 or 2 hours.
 - a. This face to face support will be in very small groups;
 - b. There will be little opportunity for social mixing;
 - c. Additional hygiene, cleaning and social distancing measures will apply. Further details will be outlined on our website in due course;

Outwood Grange Academies Trust, a company limited by guarantee registered in England and Wales with company number 06995649.

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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.

- d. There will be staggered start and end times;
 - e. This provision will focus on pastoral support, mental health and wellbeing, academic support and planning for any additional time that students may need in school.
4. My ambition is to increase this provision over time, but only if and when it is safe to do so, which will be informed by the risk assessment. Government strategy will also impact on my decision-making through its monitoring of the R rate. However, it is important to note that there will not be a return to full time provision this academic year.

Online Learning

The aim of the face to face support is to supplement online learning. Online learning will be the main focus for students' study for the remainder of the academic year. We will continue to seek to strengthen this online provision, supported by our face to face arrangements and interventions. Please find below a summary of the Y10 online learning plan for students to follow.

Y10 Online Curriculum	
Core subjects - all students study English Language and English Literature, Maths, either Combined or the Triple Science (Biology Chemistry Physics) curriculum, Core PE and Life (PSHE) and the online learning is compulsory for each subject.	
GCSE English Literature	Y10 students are completing their study of Romeo and Juliet and then moving onto the final Eduqas Poems . Extension activities are provided within the Curriculum through opportunities to watch productions of Romeo and Juliet or links to the English Revision Website.
GCSE English Language	Students are researching and planning their Speaking and Listening as well as completing a variety of reading and writing tasks. Students should focus on English Literature as part of any extension activities for this subject.
GCSE Maths	Y10 are currently studying Indices with the equivalent of 3 lessons set per week; each has a starter, learning activity and a summative quiz. Within the quizzes, videos are included and then there are questions for each student to answer. After half term students are continuing with this topic but will start problem-solving style questions. Extension work focuses on the ' MEMRI ' tasks on Hegarty Maths and ' Have A Go ' Maths competitions! Students can also join the ' Maths Masters ' classroom and try the stretch and challenge activities.
GCSE Science (combined or triple)	All Y10 work is set via a Google form posted in student classrooms. A video is provided with learning facilitated by one of the OGAT Science Directors who delivers the session and then there are summative questions for your child to answer. Your child's class teachers will check the work and let your child know their marks. Students work on a rotation of biology, chemistry and physics each week. Extension tasks can be accessed via Educake where they can quiz on any subjects they have studied so far, or those which they are interested in.

Life	Students have been researching the topic of Careers, finding out about further and higher education options/university application process and apprenticeships. This dovetails with the Careers of the Week on the VMG Programme and supports wider career choices. In Summer Term 2 students will be studying Judaism . All work can be accessed through google classroom.
Core PE	Core PE lessons focus on fitness, dance and yoga activities for students to complete on Google Classroom. Three sessions to be completed per week from any of the three areas.
EBACC Subjects - students follow different EBACC pathways and will study one, two or in some cases three of the following subjects. Please see relevant course/s for your child - the online learning in their chosen subjects is compulsory.	
GCSE Geography	Y10 Geography students have just started a new topic on 'Rivers' , exploring their features and researching 'what are their features, landforms and how do they change?' This is new content and will feed directly into their next case study. All lessons are on Google Classrooms with links to GCSE Bite Size and the Oak National Academy. Extension task for Y10 currently focuses on a virtual river study.
GCSE History	Y10 History students are currently studying The American West, completing this unit with the topics of Law and Order and the end of the lives of Plains Indians . Students may then wish to focus their time on revising the key content for this using BBC Bitesize.. Extension tasks focus on Revision of Elizabethan England and Medicine in Britain/The Western Front.
GCSE Languages	Y10 students are working on topics 'School, Education and Future Plans' in their target language . Extension tasks focus on revising key vocabulary using their own self-made flashcards, following the Leitner system (which can be easily found on the internet). Students are focussing in particular on the 'future and past tenses'. They have access to 'How To...' videos provided by Outwood teachers and Trust Directors. There are lots of creative opportunities within the Language classrooms including virtual tours of key locations from the target language they are studying and recipes to make at home.
GCSE Computer Science	Y10 Computer Science students receive a video lesson each week on a topic they have already studied this year, for the purpose of revision. They are set tasks that need to be handed in. Topics that are covered so far include data representation and the hardware components of a computer . Extension tasks include accessing Tenjin to compete in a weekly leaderboard to see who can answer the most questions correctly in a given week.

Teaching staff continue to set optional subject enhancement tasks for students in subjects which will certificate in July 2020. The tasks focus on careers, enriching students' understanding of these subjects and extension materials that will stretch and challenge them. Whilst these are not compulsory tasks, students may still want to engage with these subjects. However, the priority is now to focus on their Core and EBACC qualifications to ensure they minimise any gaps in learning and continue to make progress.

Alongside the compulsory online curriculum and curriculum enhancement tasks, there are other ways that the Academy is using Google Classroom. We recognise that trying to maintain a sense of normality is a challenge and to address this we have developed two additional classrooms to support students. Firstly, the virtual VMG Programme has been established to provide the pastoral programme students would normally follow within the Academy.. Within the VMG Programme classroom, students can watch weekly assemblies (eg 'Good News'; 'VE Day Celebrations'; 'National Share a Story Month') and complete a VMG activity; explore Careers of the Week; links to the Virtual Experience; and follow Current Affairs and the News Fix. As a polite reminder, all students should be completing the **VMG Student Check-In** each week which helps us to monitor how they are coping during the Academy closure. A new questionnaire is posted each Monday and where needed interventions are provided by either the VMG, Learning Manager or member of SLT.

Secondly, students can access the KS3 or KS4 Mindfulness Classroom. The classroom provides a wide range of resources, ideas and interventions for students to help manage mental health and well-being. In this classroom, students can access support from the Academy's Health and Well-being Practitioners, Ispace, who post daily mindfulness and self-care strategies. In addition, we have marked 'Mental Health Awareness Week' within both the VMG and Mindfulness classrooms as well as on our Twitter feed. The national focus has been on 'Kindness' and we have been overwhelmed with students' response to 'Thank A Teacher' where over 500 individual nominations have been posted for staff. Students have also submitted poems, art, photographs of how they are marking 'Clap for NHS Carers' as well as recipes they have made at home.

In these unprecedented times, where we have all had to learn and work in different ways, I would like to thank you for your amazing support with your child's online learning and for the encouragement you have given your child to continue to learn online. Please continue to do this. It makes a great difference.

I am very much looking forward to seeing the children back in the building, albeit in a very limited and different way. We will all be working in a different, socially-distanced way and we appreciate your support in reinforcing with your child the importance of social distancing, good respiratory hygiene and hand-washing.

In the meantime, I would ask you to wait for your phone call to confirm your child's arrangements for the face to face support they will receive. If you have any questions or concerns, please do get in touch via the 'Contact Us' section of the website.

Yours faithfully



Brian Kelly
Principal