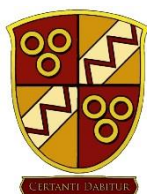


The Oldershaw Academy

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July 2020

Dear Parents and Carers

It feels very strange to be writing to parents and carers at the end of the academic year without having seen most of our pupils for so long. Whether it be through organising free school meal vouchers, supporting online learning, delivering resources to families, or simply keeping regular contact through home visits, phone calls and email, I believe my colleagues have gone above and beyond to support our entire school community. In addition, my staff have delivered support in school for vulnerable and key worker children throughout the entire lockdown period as well as more latterly delivering face to face learning for Years 10 and 12. I am incredibly proud of all that my colleagues have done to support pupils and their families in our community during such a time of unprecedented challenge.

Moving forward, I am delighted to confirm to all parents and carers that we will be re-opening fully to all pupils on a full-time basis at the start of the Autumn Term in September to deliver our broad and balanced curriculum. Please find enclosed details specific to your child about how we will support their return and re-engagement with school. Also enclosed are details about the first days of the new academic year and comprehensive information regarding the measures the Academy is introducing to help enhanced hygiene for pupils and minimised contact during the school day.

**I must stress the importance of ensuring that you and your child are familiar with this information and understand the changes we are introducing in September and the reasons for doing so.
I therefore urge you to read carefully every document enclosed and discuss them as a family.**

Although this year has been unusual, the Academy continues to develop and grow. We are increasingly popular amongst parents across Wallasey and beyond and are over-subscribed for September 2020, meaning we will be at full in Years 7 – 10, with waiting lists for some year groups.

Some of the highlights for the year have been the amazing number of extra-curricular educational experiences available for Oldershaw students, including: field study visits, theatre, careers, international travel as part of the Erasmus project to Italy, Languages trip to Berlin, History trip to Poland and the successful Media visit to New York. There have been over 50 fantastic opportunities and we fully intend to offer these again to pupils in the future. We are proud of the achievements of all our pupils over this year, but a highlight was Amy Varnham winning the NASUWT Arts & Minds competition in London in November where she received a national award presented by Gok Wan.

Oldershaw Centenary – 11th September 2020

In 2020 Oldershaw celebrates 100 years serving in Wallasey but due to continuing concerns about the COVID-19 virus, the Oldershaw Centenary Committee has made the decision to postpone the planned centenary celebrations and events until the following year, 2021/2022 to ensure that Oldershaw's contributions to the local community are acknowledged and celebrated. Revised dates for the events will be communicated via the school website and the usual media outlets.

Welcome to New Staff

In September we will be welcoming the following new members of staff: Miss Katy May (Teacher of Mathematics), Mr Rory Greenwood (Teacher of Science), Miss Danielle Paynter (Teacher of PE), Miss Natalie Holt (Teacher of MFL) and Mr Richard Gore (Teacher of Music). We are also delighted to welcome back Mr Simon Worth (Teacher of Art) who worked with us previously.

Furthermore, I would like to announce the following internal appointments: Miss Hannah Marsh (Head of Girls' PE), Ms Eilish Smyth (Progress Leader – Year 7), Mrs Jo Riley (Head of Art & Recruitment) and Mr Lee Routledge (Head of Sixth Form). We congratulate them all on their appointments and welcome the dynamism and fresh approach each will bring to their new role.

Fond Farewells

At the end of this term we say fond farewells to the following members of staff: Mrs Penny McVey (Teacher of Music), Mr George Roberts (Teacher of History), Miss Beth Burdon (Teacher of English) and Mrs Danielle McBirney (Head of Art). They have each made an important contribution to the life of the Academy and leave with our best wishes for the future.

We also wish a fond farewell and very happy retirement to my Co-Principal, Mr Mike Liddell. Mike joined the Academy in 2002 and led our work in several significant roles including Head of Sixth Form and Deputy Headteacher before becoming Co-Principal in 2016. Mike dedicated his entire career of nearly 40 years to supporting children and their families, and his warmth, good humour and care for others will be hugely missed. His legacy of kindness is fully embedded in the ethos of our school and, while words cannot do justice to such a period of service, he leaves with the very best wishes of all his colleagues and the many children and families whose lives he touched.

Finally, I fully recognise that the unavoidable national school closure has presented many challenges for families, and my colleagues and I very much appreciate how parents and carers have supported remote learning during this time. As we move forward and welcome back all pupils into school, it is vital that we work together to ensure all children get back to making good progress in their learning as well as their wider development as young people. As ever, your support for the work we do with your children is very much needed and appreciated.

Please keep checking the school website for information updates.

So, let me close by thanking once again all parents and carers – as well as their children - for their continued support of the Academy and wish each of you a happy, safe, and restful summer.

Yours sincerely



Jon Bush
Principal

Important Information

Examination Results Days 2020

- A Level Thursday 13th August
- GCSE Thursday 20th August

To ensure that pupils can safely collect their examination results, parents and carers have already received specific guidance about the arrangements for Results Day; please ensure that you follow the outlined procedures carefully.

Returning In September

Tuesday 1st September Professional Development Day **(No Pupils)**

Wednesday 2nd September Professional Development Day **(No Pupils)**

Thursday 3rd September Enhanced Induction for Pupils – Years 7 – 13 **(Not all Pupils)**

Progress Leaders have contacted pupils across Years 7-11 whom it is felt would benefit from additional sessions to prepare them for returning to school following lockdown. The timings of these sessions have been communicated by Progress Leaders. If in doubt, please contact your child's Progress Leader or APL for confirmation.

Year 7 Induction Afternoon – 3/9/20 1 pm - 3pm

It is important that our incoming Year 7 pupils can meet staff and complete activities which support their transition to secondary school. They should arrive at school via the ASDA entrance ready for a 1pm start. Unless there are exceptional circumstances, we must ask parents and carers not to enter the school site. The session will end at 3pm when we will dismiss pupils via the same gate to make their way home. If you intend to pick your child up, please make this explicitly clear to both your child and staff on duty at the gate when you drop them off. They should wear full school uniform and may bring a water bottle. However, nothing else will be needed on the day.

Sixth Form Induction – Year 12

Students joining the Academy's Sixth Form must enrol on their courses. This will take place between 9am – 12noon in the Lecture Theatre. Students should come in through the Sixth Form entrance where they will be met by Mr Routledge and his team.

Sixth Form Registration – Year 13

Students returning for Year 13 studies must register on their courses. This will take place in the Lecture Theatre from 1.15-3pm.

Friday 4th September **All Pupils Return**

All pupils in all year groups should ensure that they arrive promptly for an 8.30am start to begin the new academic year.

Attendance

The government guidance to schools for September makes it absolutely clear that full attendance at school is compulsory for all children of school age. To that end we will be implementing once again our full attendance strategy and expectations: **we expect all children in school on time every day.**

Please do not take your child out of the Academy during term time for holidays and always encourage 100% attendance. Parents may be aware that the most recent court ruling on the issue upheld government legislation that holidays during term time are not allowed under any circumstances. There is no flexibility in the application of this ruling and the government insists families are fined for students missing school time for family holidays. Fines will also be applied for other consistently unauthorised absence.

Punctuality

Students who are late for school or late for lessons disrupt their own learning and the learning of others. To prevent this, we run a daily detention policy of 15 minutes after school that night for any student who has a single late mark that day. Students who continue to be late may be subject to further additional sanctions.

The Academy Day – incorporating changes for the new academic year

Breakfast Club	8.00 - 8.30
AM Registration	8:30 – 9.00
Period 1	9.00 – 9.45
Period 2	9.45 – 10.30
Break	10.30 – 10.50
Period 3	10.50 – 11.35
Period 4	11.35 – 12.20
Lunch	12.20 – 1.15
Period 5	1.15 – 2.00
Period 6	2.00 – 2.45
PM Registration	2.45 – 3.00
Period 7 Period 7 is compulsory for Year 11 from September	3.00 – 3.45

Readiness to Learn: School Bags & Equipment

The Academy bag, which is available from the Uniform Shop in Birkenhead, supports our students' readiness to learn and provides sufficient space for class and all homework books plus PE kit. The bag is part of our school uniform and must be brought to school every day. No other bag is permitted.

To ensure greater hygiene in school, the academy will provide a pencil case with pen, pencil, ruler, rubber, and sharpener for all pupils in September.

Homework

Following the success of our remote learning programme using Microsoft Teams, we will continue to use this facility to make all our lessons and homework available there. All other information about your child such as attendance and reports are still available to view online using the SIMS Parent mobile app (FREE to download from Google Play or the Apple App Store) or via www.sims-parent.co.uk. If you do not have a username and password for SIMS Parent, please call the school office on 0151 638 2800 to tell us your email address. You will then receive an email to complete the registration process.

Uniform

Full Academy uniform is expected to be worn by all students every day. This especially includes ties and traditional style black leather school shoes (see website for further details). It is not allowed for students to wear any form of training shoe or pump – even if sold as “shoes.” In cold weather, students may choose to wear a plain grey V-neck jumper, but hoodies, sweatshirts and tracksuits are not allowed for school and will be confiscated if worn. Students can choose to bring a coat to school but these must not be worn inside the classroom.

Please remember that our uniform requirement is for grey trousers or skirt. We do not allow black for such items.

PE lessons are still compulsory for all students and they must wear full Oldershaw PE kit when taking part.

Mobile Phones

To prevent disruption to learning and issues with social media, mobile phones and headphones continue to be banned completely in the Academy and must not be seen or heard at anytime, anywhere on the school site, including before and after school.

Behaviour for Learning

At Oldershaw outstanding behaviour for learning is essential if all students are to achieve their absolute best. Therefore, if any student disrupts a lesson to the point where they are asked to work in another classroom, they will be expected to complete a half hour detention that night to catch up on missed work. Further refusal to comply will lead to more serious sanctions including a one-hour detention with Senior Leadership and a fixed term exclusion, if necessary.

Happy and Safe

The safety of students continues to be of paramount importance, and I would ask for parents' support in ensuring all students follow our rules. Sensible and considerate behaviour is expected of all students as they travel to and from the Academy. They should wear full uniform from the moment they leave home and behave in a positive and responsible manner. At lunchtime, the gates will be locked, and the only students allowed out will be our senior students in the Sixth Form. No other students are allowed off site at lunchtime.

Thank you for supporting us with these issues. Students who get these smaller details right always go on to achieve the bigger successes with their learning that we all want for them.