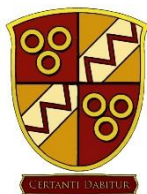


# The Oldershaw Academy

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Mr J Bush

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Company Registration: 07652792

26<sup>th</sup> February 2021

Dear Parents and Carers,

My staff has been incredibly busy throughout this third national lockdown to ensure every pupil has continued to receive the very best of Oldershaw. Whether providing loaned laptops and internet access, ensuring all families receive their free school meal entitlement, delivering the fullest remote learning experience possible or simply supporting children and families with everything they've faced throughout this most challenging of times, I feel an incredible sense of pride in the way the entire school community has pulled together for the benefit of all. We remain a proudly inclusive school community and I believe my staff have proven that time and again over these early weeks of 2021.

That said, I am absolutely delighted to now be writing to you with our plans to welcome back all pupils during the week commencing Monday 8<sup>th</sup> March. I'm sure you will agree that a return to full normality – in a safe and measured way - cannot come soon enough.

## **Testing In School**

The government has instructed schools to *offer* three Covid-19 tests to pupils in school with children returning to normal schooling following the first of these. Should you wish your child to be tested in school for Covid-19, please complete the online consent form ([click here](#)) by Friday 5<sup>th</sup> March.

**NB: we cannot test your child without explicit parental consent in this way.**

## **Staggered Return To School**

Due to the scale and complexity of the Covid-19 testing requirement, we intend to stagger the return of pupils over the course of the week as per government guidelines, prioritising Years 10-13 followed by other year groups. All pupils will continue to receive remote education until their return day. Please see the attached timetable and instructions for details.

From Monday 8<sup>th</sup> March, Free School Meal provision will be made for all families so entitled (details to follow) and school buses are expected to run as normal.

## **Systems of Control**

All our previous systems of control remain in place, including:

- £17,000 investment in electronic fire-safe internal door latches to improve internal ventilation
- £6,000 investment in outdoor handwashing facilities with soap, warm water, paper towels and shelters for all pupils on entry to the site and throughout the day
- New one-way system introduced for the entire site to minimise face-to-face contact
- Classrooms reconfigured to minimise face-to-face contact

- Tissues and hand-sanitiser available in every classroom
- £12,000 fogging machine services acquired in order ensure daily deep cleaning
- Full-time member of staff to clean and supervise pupil toilets
- Full-time members of staff cleaning all potential high-touch surfaces and empty classrooms throughout the day
- New faster grab bag lunch system – including hot food – to minimise queuing and prolonged close contact indoors
- Additional time built into the school day to facilitate handwashing
- Staggered end to the school day to minimise mixing as pupils leave the school site

Furthermore, we will be upgrading the following two systems of control in line with new government recommendations:

- All classrooms will be fully ventilated throughout the day
- All pupils and members of staff will be strongly recommended to wear face masks inside the buildings –including during lesson time – except during PE.

**NB: pupils who are exempt from wearing face masks for any reason whatsoever will *not* be required to wear one. Please contact your child's PL or APL if you feel this to be the case. However, if your child was already exempt during the autumn term, their exemption will remain in place unless you tell us otherwise.**

### **Return of School Laptops**

All laptops loaned to pupils for remote learning will need to be returned to school. However, we will send details for this after Easter. Can I please respectfully request that you continue to ensure this school equipment remains in good condition.

### **Statutory Attendance Requirements**

Full attendance at school becomes mandatory once again from 8<sup>th</sup> March for all pupils except those who are isolating or shielding, and we are required by law to follow up on all non-attendance in the usual ways – up to and including potential prosecution. As ever, we will work with families in as supportive a way as possible around regular school attendance.

Pupils should self-isolate if they:

- Have symptoms or have had a positive test result
- Live with someone who has symptoms or has tested positive and they are a household contact
- Are a close contact of someone who has coronavirus (Covid-19)

Pupils who have been identified by a clinician as being clinically extremely vulnerable should shield and stay home from school. Please communicate this with Miss Stanley, Vice-Principal Inclusion, or with your child's PL/APL.

### **GCSE & A Level Grades**

The government has now confirmed that schools will be required to submit Centre Assessed Grades (CAGs) for all pupils entered for external examinations this summer. CAGs will be based on a range of evidence to determine grades from across the duration of each pupil's course and crucially work completed up to the submission date of 18<sup>th</sup> June. Teachers can use any and all of the following evidence on which to base the CAGs for each pupil:

- Work completed prior to lockdown
- Work completed during lockdown
- Pre-Public Examination (Mock) grades

- Substantial pieces of classwork and homework
- Non-Examined Assessment (coursework) – even if not fully completed
- Records of pupil capability and performance in performance-based subjects such as PE, Drama and Art

Schools are required to take steps to show they have quality assured CAGs according to exam board criteria and these steps are subject to further quality assurance measures by the exam boards. Furthermore, every pupil will have the right to appeal their grade if they so wish.

I will write to you in due course with further information on CAGs.

Finally, sincere thanks to all parents and carers for the way you have supported your children throughout lockdown. At Oldershaw we fully appreciate the challenges you have faced in doing so and look forward to taking your children off your hands and welcoming them back into our care for their education where we feel they belong.

Yours faithfully,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Jon Bush', written over the text 'Yours faithfully,'.

**Jon Bush**

**Principal**