

17th July 2020

Dear Parents and Carers

I hope that this letter finds you and your family well. I am writing to you at the end of a very unique and different academic year; a year brimming with challenges, anxieties and change. I would like to take this opportunity, on behalf of all staff at Airedale Academy, to say a heartfelt thank-you to our students and to our families for supporting us during a very difficult time. We are so proud of our young people, who have shown such bravery and ambition, as well as resilience during the period of lockdown. We are so grateful to our families for supporting and encouraging our students with their home learning and for keeping in touch with us via our weekly phone calls.

This letter will outline our plans to welcome all our students back to the Academy in September, in line with DfE guidance. You will be aware that guidance was released on 2nd July outlining the government's expectations of schools in order to reopen safely in September. The guidance is a complex document which requires that schools make many significant changes to the way in which they operate. The guidance can be found at:

<https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/actions-for-schools-during-the-coronavirus-outbreak/guidance-for-full-opening-schools#section-3-curriculum-behaviour-and-pastoral-support>

I have summarised some of the key points below:

- It is expected that all students in all years return to school in September.
- Attendance expectations are to be reintroduced.
- Students will be grouped into 'bubbles' which will encompass whole year groups. Schools are expected to take steps to limit interactions and sharing of rooms and social spaces.
- Within bubbles, the intention is that much of school life can resume. Staff will be allowed to change bubbles to facilitate lesson change. Movement around school will need to be minimised.
- Bubbles will also see staggering of breaks and lunchtimes to minimise the numbers present in any one place.
- Social distancing remains in place for staff who will be expected to socially distance from each other and from students. Students will be expected to maintain 1m+ distance from each other where possible.
- Some areas of the curriculum may be limited with theory replacing practical lessons in some subjects.
- Schools will be allowed to vary start and finish times, and break times to allow for a staggered arrival and departure from the school site.
- There is an expectation that school uniform should be worn as normal for all children.

Respect • Ambition • Bravery

It is key to remember that we still have 7 weeks until we reopen in September. We will ensure that we stay abreast of any further government or Public Health England guidance and adjust and amend our plans accordingly. I will share with you the full details of our plans and the accompanying risk assessments by letter and via links to our website during the summer holidays for this reason. I would however, like to share the following key information with you in order that you can plan ahead and discuss arrangements with your children in readiness for September.

In line with government guidance, students will be kept in year group bubbles throughout the school day. Due to significant changes to our school day and to our site operation, bubbles will not mix. We will operate 2 distinct schools. The first for years 7-9 in our lower buildings and the second for years 10-13 in our upper buildings. Each year group will start at a different time and will use a separate gate. It is vital that students arrive at the exact time in the table below, not early or late and that they use their designated gates. Students must not gather outside the gates or on Crewe Road before the start or at the end of the school day. Families are urged wherever possible, to avoid the use of public transport, and students are encouraged to walk or cycle to school where able to.

Year	Start Time	Gate	Break	Lunch	Location	Finish Time
Y7	8:30am	Step Out	10:50-11:00am	12:35-1:05pm	Canteen	2:35pm
Y8	8:15am	Library	10:50-11:00am	12:05-12:35pm	Canteen	2:35pm
Y9	8:45am	Library	11:00-11:10am	1:05-1:35pm	Canteen	2:50pm
Y10	8:15am	Main	11:00-11:10am	1:05-1:35pm	Theatre	2:35pm
Y11	8:45am	Main	10:50-11:00am	12:05-12:35pm	Theatre	2:50pm
Y 12 & 13	8:30am	Pedestrian		12:35-1:05pm	Theatre	2:35pm

We will be unable to provide catering facilities before school or at break time. Students are encouraged to bring a bottle of water with them and those students who choose to may bring a packed lunch. At lunchtimes, we will provide a limited menu which will be published on our website, with both hot and cold options for students to pre-order at the beginning of the school day. The fingerprint system will not be used to pay, payments will be deducted manually via our online payment system. Further details will be shared in my letter over the holidays.

Students are expected to return in full school uniform. Students will need PE kit, however practical PE lessons will not resume until just before October half term. We respectfully remind students of our expectations around jewellery, piercings, nails and appropriate hair styles and colours.

Respect • Ambition • Bravery

School will reopen on Tuesday 8th September. In order to ensure that all students have the opportunity to adapt to the many changes outlined above and to have the opportunity to adopt our new routines, it is very important that each year group has the chance to attend separately during the first week of term. We will welcome each year group back for **one day only during the first week. All students will then return full time from Monday 14th September.**

- Monday 7th September – INSET Day – no students in school
- Tuesday 8th September – Year 9 only (Year 12 attend for enrolment appointments)
- Wednesday 9th September – Year 8 & Year 11 only
- Thursday 10th September – Year 10 only
- Friday 11th September – Year 7 & Year 13 only

We thank-you in advance for your support in ensuring that we are able to welcome all students back safely, in line with government guidance, in September. All our staff are very much looking forward to having our students back with us after this extended period. I understand that parents and carers may have anxieties around September; I would encourage you to make contact with the school using our info@airedaleacademy.com email should you have specific questions.

I will be in touch via letter later in the holidays to give you further details of our plans.

Yours faithfully



L. Proctor