

September 2020

Dear Parents / Carers

May I take this opportunity to welcome all of our students back to Airedale Academy for the academic year 2020-2021! A special welcome to our new Year 7 and Year 12 students who have made an excellent start; I am sure you will be happy and make good progress during your time with us.

We really enjoyed having all students back with us last week and we have been very impressed with the way in which they have approached the safety arrangements in place. We will keep positively reinforcing key messages around limiting contact, maximising social distancing and the importance of good hygiene, to make sure that we are all doing everything we possibly can to keep ourselves, our friends and our families safe.

You will have no doubt seen in the news that the number of confirmed cases of Coronavirus is rising again and from Monday 14th September, increased restrictions have been imposed again by the government. The scientific evidence now tells us that there is evidence that young people are becoming significant spreaders of the virus. As it is possible to have the virus without symptoms, it is possible that students could infect others without realising. As I stressed to all students during our briefings last week, it is possible that they could transmit the virus to older relatives, those who are vulnerable and those with underlying health conditions.

To safeguard against this, we are encouraging our students to remember the following 3 things in line with the government and NHS campaign:

#HandsFaceSpace



HANDS

Students are asked to sanitise their hands on arrival at the Academy and when they enter and leave classrooms.

FACE

We are asking students to wear face coverings when in communal areas or where it isn't possible to socially distance and on buses.

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SPACE

We are encouraging students to maintain an appropriate distance between each other – 1m or more where possible. We have also introduced a **no physical contact** rule. We ask that students don't touch each other unnecessarily to ensure that they stay safe.

You will be aware from my previous letter that we have created year group bubbles in different areas of the Academy in order to keep daily contact to a minimum. I have explained to all students this week the importance of staying within their bubble and not going into other areas of the academy. Please could I ask that you reinforce this message with your son / daughter, explaining the seriousness of following this government guidance. Students found in an area of the academy outside their bubble will face serious sanctions.

I would ask for your continued support in ensuring that our students arrive on time each day, in full uniform, equipped and ready to learn. Thank-you for continuing to ensure our students are wearing only stud earrings and a watch, with nails of a reasonable length and natural/light colour, with mobile phones in bags and switched off. We will continue to focus on standards and expectations. We want to ensure that no learning time is wasted on conversations about things that 'get in the way'; our conversations with our students need to be about their learning and their progress and how we can support them to be the very best that they can be. We pride ourselves in the support that we offer our students, if you have any concerns around your son / daughter's experiences at school, please don't hesitate to contact their Form Tutor or Progress Leader. If you ring our main reception number, our receptionists will direct your call.

Please continue to watch out for post cards and letters from the Academy and follow us on Face Book and Twitter to stay up to date on successes and developments at Airedale.

I will write to you again next week to outline our plans for families should we have to close a bubble due to a positive case or due to advice from PHE. If you have any concerns and feedback, please don't hesitate to get in touch.

Yours faithfully



L. Proctor
Principal

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