

23<sup>rd</sup> September 2020

Dear Parent / Carer

I hope that this letter finds you and your family well. We are now well into our second full week back in the Academy and continue to be very proud of our young people and the resilience, adaptability and respect that they are showing. We continue to update our plans and risk assessments to ensure that the safety of our students, staff and community are central to the daily running of our school.

As you will no doubt be aware, our Prime Minister addressed the country yesterday evening and outlined the new expectations that are in place for us. Part of the government plan includes face coverings; this includes more people wearing them in more places. To this end, we are continuing to insist that students wear face coverings in communal areas and where it is difficult to socially distance. This is in line with Public Health England guidance. Thank-you to parents / carers who have notified us of medical exemptions; we will be issuing students with lanyards to show exemption and will contact you to ensure that you are happy for your son / daughter to wear one. This will stop them being challenged by staff each day.

We have noticed that a small minority of students have returned to the Academy with hair and / or nails that aren't in line with our policy. Please can I ask that hair styles not reflect the extremes of youth culture. Hair should not be dyed unnatural colours, there should be no shaved patterns or lines in hair or eyebrows. We ask that any hair accessories worn be plain black or dark with no big, bright colours. Nails should be a reasonable length and colour; acrylic nails are not allowed for health and safety reasons. We would very much like to work with our families to rectify any issues and ask please that hair and nails are in line with our policy by **Monday, 5<sup>th</sup> October**. From this point forwards, sanctions will be put in place for students not adhering to our policy. As it starts to get colder, we are happy for our students to wear a plain black v-neck jumper or cardigan (no logos or sweatshirts) underneath their blazer. Please remind your son / daughter that this to be worn with their blazer not instead of it.

I will be sending out a link via text, our website and our Facebook page later this week, which asks parents / carers to provide us with key information vital to our planning around Covid-19. It is very important that all of our families complete this please; this will ensure that our plans support you and your specific needs. For example, we need to know your preferences around your child should we have to send a year group home due to a positive case of the virus; we also need to understand which families would need to access Keyworker provision should a further lockdown occur. Finally, we need up to date information around the availability of laptops and the internet to support home learning. Please can I ask that you support us by completing this in a timely manner.

You may already be aware that there is now an expectation that schools across England have a remote (home) learning plan in place, to ensure that there is seamless provision for all students should there be another local or national lockdown. In addition, schools across England are now expected to provide home learning provision for any student who is absent from school as a result of

**Respect • Ambition • Bravery**

the virus, should the student be well enough to access learning; for example, should a student have to self-isolate as a result of a family member displaying symptoms of the virus.

As was the case in March 2020, Airedale Academy provides all online learning via the Google Classroom Remote Learning Platform. All students should be aware of their Google Classroom log-in and, therefore, should be able to access the work provided via this platform. If we were to close as a whole school, or should we have to close a particular year group bubble, all work would be provided via Google Classroom. The work set will appear in the class stream for each subject that your child would have, should they be in school and will replicate the hours of learning that they would have for a given subject should they be in school. If you are concerned about a lack of suitable devices in the home, or a lack of internet access in the home, please make contact with your child's Progress Leader.

In addition, all independent learning (homework) tasks will now be set, using the Google Classroom platform. In KS3 this will be for Core subjects (English, Maths and Science) and in KS4, this will be for all GCSE and BTEC subjects. Please note that Google Classroom has an easy to use mobile app. Therefore, if you do not have a tablet, Chromebook or laptop at home, work can be completed by using the mobile app. Independent tasks can be completed using Microsoft Office software, or Google Docs. Equally, work can be hand written, photographed and uploaded using the Google Classroom app.

We will also be providing a Homework Hub in the computer room attached to each year group bubble. These will be manned by Hub staff until 4pm each day Monday to Friday. Therefore, it is the expectation that all independent learning tasks are completed and to the deadlines set, as independent learning is vital to boosting a student's progress over time and also allows them to develop increased resilience. If you have any questions about our online provision, please contact your child's Progress Leader.

I would like to thank-you for your continued support during what continues to be such a difficult time. Should you need support or have a question or query, please don't hesitate to contact us on 01977 66455 or via [info@airedaleacademy.com](mailto:info@airedaleacademy.com)

Yours faithfully

Miss L. Proctor  
Principal