

Dear Parents/Carers

RE: Autumn Term 2

I am delighted to welcome you all back after what, I hope, was an enjoyable and peaceful half term break for you all. We look forward to continuing to be back in the Academy this half term to deliver lessons to students face to face, and seeing them all flourish and progress in class. We are aware that this period of lockdown will bring challenges for many families, and we would like to assure you that we will be here to support you and your child(ren) in whatever way we can; if you need any advice or guidance please do not hesitate to contact your child's Mentor in the first instance.

National Lockdown

As you will have seen in the news, the country is now under lockdown restrictions for a second time. However, during this lockdown schools will remain open to ensure students continue to receive their education, and therefore students should continue to attend school as normal unless they are required to self-isolate.

We have reviewed all of the new government guidelines for schools during this period, and we are pleased to say that they are all measures that we have already put in place, such as wearing masks in communal areas. We have also cancelled all of our lettings to ensure there is no risk for cross-contamination during this period. Our Health and safety committee will continue to meet on a weekly basis to respond to any changes that may be required, and to assess risks as necessary.

We will continue to have windows open in the building throughout the winter to ensure that there is good ventilation in the building to reduce the spread of Covid-19. It is therefore important that students remember to wear layers to the Academy to stay warm as we enter the colder months of the year. Please also ensure students wash their masks regularly and have a spare to wear whilst the other is in the wash.

Snow

Whilst at the moment we remain open in the face of Covid-19, we are entering the period of the year where inclement weather has the potential to affect our ability to operate in the building. One of the positives to come from Covid-19 is that we are in a position where we have a lot of experience with remote learning. Therefore, I wanted to write to you with our updated snow closure procedures in light of this, and to ensure that you have plenty of forewarning on these plans should they be required.

Closing the Academy due to inclement weather will never be a decision we make lightly. Throughout the week and day of expected weather difficulties, we monitor the snow forecasts regularly, but as you will be aware, they are not always accurate.

Closing the Academy due to inclement weather before the start of the day

A decision whether to open the school on a morning following snowfall is made at around 7am. This decision will be made dependant on the difficulties for staff, students, and parents travelling to the site, the condition of the school site as reported by the Site Manager at this time, and after discussion with the Headteachers of local schools. In the event we make the decision to close the Academy for the day, you will



Principal – Ms Catrin Green

Homefield Road, Old Coulsdon, Surrey, CR5 1ES
Tel: 01737 551 161. www.oasisacademycoulsdon.org

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be notified by 7.30am by text and email (please note: only priority contacts will receive these messages). If we decide to remain open then we will not contact you, therefore, in the event you do not receive a text and email from us then please send your child to the Academy as normal. We will also add a note to the Academy website as to whether or not we are open or closed and so this can be checked should you be unsure.

Closing the Academy due to inclement weather during the day

If during the day we feel that the weather will cause travel difficulties for both parents, students, and staff we contact local schools and monitor the conditions together. We will also liaise with the bus companies to assess their perceived impact on safe travel. A decision will then be made based on all information provided by third parties and our own judgements.

When this decision is made we will send a text and an email to the priority contacts we hold on our system to notify you that we intend to close the Academy. For those parents who have completed the Home Academy Agreement we will be able to dismiss these students immediately (unless otherwise indicated) meaning they can get home as quickly and safely as possible.

For all those who have not completed the Home Academy Agreement, we will then ask students to obtain parental permission to be dismissed early. If your child has a mobile phone please call or text them with your permission- student phones that have been checked –in will be returned as soon as the closure decision is made- as the Academy is unable to process high volumes of calls and text messages and ensure students are dismissed promptly. The class teacher with your child will verify their permission before they are dismissed and those without permission will be taken to the Agora to await permission to leave. Students will have a staggered dismissal over the course of half an hour to ensure that everyone is able to leave the site safely, and avoid crowding at bus stops on the main road.

Please ensure that the Academy has your most up to date contact details so that we can contact you quickly and easily in the event of emergencies such as this.

You can check your contact details on the MCAS app and update them hassle free. Alternatively, you can contact the Academy to update any phone numbers and email addresses.

Working from home in the event of snow closures

Should there be the need to close due to snow, we are pleased to have a strong home working system in place already. On the first full day of closure students should refer to the [Working from Home](#) page on our website and complete the checklists for their year group and relevant week. During that first day we will review how long we think it is likely for the Academy to be closed. Should this be a short closure of no more than two days then we will ask students to complete the work from the Working from Home page. However, if we think closure will go on for longer than two days then we will implement online lessons via Teams for some/all year groups, which may be a combination of live and pre-recorded lessons.



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I do understand that school closures cause difficulties for some parents and we therefore try to avoid them if possible – however, as I am sure you can appreciate, we do not know what the weather is going to do so can only make the decision on the information available to us at that time.

Details of closures or changes in the school day will also be posted on the school website: www.oasisacademycoulsdon.org

I look forward to a successful second half to the Autumn Term, and as always, thank you for your continued support. Please see the Weekly Bulletin, which will be sent out later today, for further notices and information about the term ahead.

Yours sincerely,

A handwritten signature in blue ink, appearing to be 'C Green'.

Ms C Green
Principal



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