

Dear Year 8 Parent/Carer,

It is now just a few days to go until we welcome Year 8 back to the Academy, and we are really looking forward to seeing them all again after such a long time away. As mentioned in [last week's](#) letter to you, we are pleased to be writing with the final arrangements for the start of term.

### **Year 8 September Video**

On the below link you can watch a short introduction so that students know what to expect on their first day and how check in will work thereafter. However, please note that this was filmed prior to the update in use of face coverings for staff and students.

[Year 8 September video](#)

### **Work set for the first week back**

As of Monday 7<sup>th</sup> September, all students are officially 'back at school'. However, due to our staggered start to the year to ensure we can induct all year groups back to the Academy and introduce them to the new routines we will be using, not all year groups will be in every day. On the days that students are not in the Academy they should complete the work set for them in their core subjects, which will be emailed to them on their school email accounts. For Year 8 students this will be on Monday 7<sup>th</sup>, Wednesday 9<sup>th</sup> and Thursday 10<sup>th</sup> September.

### **My Child at School**

As you are aware, My Child at School (MCAS) is the app used by the Academy to communicate information home with you. We highly recommend that you download this app as it is an extremely useful parent tool.

We won't always be able to text home due to the amount it costs the Academy, however, sending messages to the MCAS app is free of charge and so by downloading this app you will not only save the Academy money but you will also get notifications on this that we will otherwise only email. You will also be able to see information on there such as your child's timetable, merits and demerits/detentions they have received, attendance, and reports. You will also be able to update your contact details on here, which will notify the Academy of any changes.

As mentioned in our [Student & Parent Guide to September 2020](#) document sent home before the summer holidays, it has been necessary to re-organise mentor groups so that students are in the same streamed group for all core subjects, and are also grouped by subjects of study for option subjects in older years. This will allow students to remain in one classroom for more of their day and to decrease the number of students moving around the Academy. This means that some students will have a different Mentor, and different students in their mentor group with them. Whilst we know that this may be disappointing for staff and for students who have been in their mentor groups for a number of years, it is an important compromise to ensure we are minimising the risks to



**Principal – Ms Catrin Green**

Homefield Road, Old Coulsdon, Surrey, CR5 1ES  
Tel: 01737 551 161. [www.oasisacademycoulsdon.org](http://www.oasisacademycoulsdon.org)

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staff and students during this time. Please also rest assured that Family Leaders and teachers have worked together to ensure students have been placed in the best group for them, however, if you have any concerns or queries students can speak to their new mentor next week.

If you have the MCAS app you will now be able to see their mentor group for the coming year. Please note: you will need to change the week to view date to 7<sup>th</sup> September as this is when timetables begin. Alternatively, students will have to wait until their first day of term to find out this information.

### Student Reception

When we return our Student Reception operation will need to change in light of current conditions. Instead of having a duty pupil from KS3 who works to support the office staff for one day, we will have to make changes so that as much of this is done remotely and online as possible.

This means we will not be able to easily get messages to students throughout the day. Instead, we will have two points in each day where staff read out messages to students, which will be sent electronically to teachers to read out. If your child needs to leave early that day then they will need to remember what time they need to leave and let their teacher of that period know. As a parent/carer you will need to write a note in their record book which they can show to the member of staff to let them know, but we regret we will not be able to send reminders to students for things such as this.

The two points for messages will be at 10.40am and 3.10pm. If you have anything that you need to make your child aware of then we ask that you notify us no later than 10.20am or 2.45pm to ensure it is included on the messages list.

### Face Masks

Some students may be exempt from wearing a facemask on medical grounds. If this is the case, we will provide them with an exemption card for them to keep in their blazer pocket to show to a member of staff if they are questioned about why they do not have a mask on. If your child requires one of these cards then we ask that you email your request, along with medical evidence (unless you have already provided this to the Academy when notifying us of your child's condition) that they should be exempt to [Caroline Leeson](#) no later than Friday 4<sup>th</sup> September 2020. If you have any further queries or concerns about the wearing of masks then please contact your child's Family Leader, [Ms Ogundele](#).

### Uniform

We are aware that some parents/carers have experienced issues with purchasing uniform from Hewitt's of Croydon and that there are currently exceptionally long queues outside the shop. We would not wish for any parent/carer to put themselves at risk by standing in crowded areas for hours on end to wait for uniform; and therefore for the first few weeks of term will be lenient on students who do not have full/correct uniform whilst



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in order to give you time to purchase missing items.

In the interim, we will lend what we can of clean items of uniform we have in stock, and we will allow students to take this home to be cleaned again if they wish before they are worn. We also have good quality second hand items available to purchase from our Friends of Oasis Academy Coulsdon (FOAC), to find out what they have available you can email [FOAC@oasiscoulsdon.org](mailto:FOAC@oasiscoulsdon.org).

### **Busses**

We have received confirmation that the times for the school busses have now been updated to reflect the change in our school day. There will be staggered departure times to reflect the staggered end to our day and to avoid students having to gather in large crowds whilst waiting for the service. Both busses will depart the Academy on the 60 route, the first will leave at 3.15pm and this bus will revert back to the 466 route once it reaches Katherine Street. The second bus will depart at 3.25pm and remain on the 60 route.

In order to accommodate the amount of children and adult commuters needing to use bus services at peak times, busses will work on an alternating school and non-school service system. This means that every other bus on key routes will be for school students, with the alternating busses for adult commuters. This will be indicated with a **yellow board in the front of a bus window for schoolchildren** to use. On this service, social distancing rules will be relaxed in line with government guidance to allow up to 60 children, all of whom must be seated, at any one time. Busses with a red board in the front of the window will be for adult commuters and schoolchildren will not be permitted to board these services. We do not have timetables for this alternating service, but please inform your child that they can board any bus with a yellow board in the front window so long as there is space and are wearing facemasks.

### **Guidance in the event of a confirmed case**

Please accept our apologies for omitting to include this Government guidance in last weeks' letter. Please see appendix 1 at the end of this letter for the relevant information.

Once again, we are really looking forward to seeing Year 8 next week for their first day on Tuesday 8<sup>th</sup> September with arrival between 8.25-8.45am and then again from Friday 11<sup>th</sup> September with the same arrival times. Should you have any further questions then please do not hesitate to contact us, and I hope you all enjoy the final weekend of the holidays.

Yours sincerely,



Ms C Green  
Principal



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## Appendix 1

### Government guidance

You may have questions about the Government's approach to reopening schools. I have summarised some of the [Government's latest advice](#) (updated 21<sup>st</sup> August) which I hope will address some of your questions. You can read the Government's full advice by searching 'DfE parents guidance.'

### Is it safe to return?

All children, in all year groups, will return to school full time from the beginning of the autumn term. The prevalence of coronavirus has decreased since schools restricted their opening to most pupils, the NHS Test and Trace system is up and running and we understand more about the measures that need to be in place to create safer environments in schools.

The scientific evidence shows that coronavirus (COVID-19) presents a much lower risk to children than adults of becoming severely ill, and there is no evidence that children transmit the disease any more than adults. There will still be risks while coronavirus (COVID-19) remains in the community, and that is why schools will be asked to put in place a range of protective measures

### Attendance

It is vital that children and young people return to school and college, for their educational progress, for their wellbeing, and for their wider development. School attendance will be mandatory from the beginning of the new academic year. This means that it is your legal duty as a parent to send your child (if they are of compulsory school age) to school regularly.

If you have concerns about your child returning to school or college because you consider they may have other risk factors, you should discuss these with your school. They should be able to explain ways they are changing things to reduce risks.

### Actions you can take

Do not send your child to their nursery or school if:

- they are showing [coronavirus \(COVID-19\) symptoms](#)
- someone in their household is showing symptoms

[Arrange a test](#) if you or your child develops symptoms. Inform your nursery or school of the results.

If the test is positive, follow [guidance for households with possible or confirmed coronavirus \(COVID-19\) infection](#), and engage with the NHS Test and Trace process.



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It is really important that you help nurseries and schools to implement these actions by following the advice set out here and wider public health advice and guidance.

### Actions that schools will take

We have asked schools to:

- manage confirmed cases of coronavirus (COVID-19) in the school, in line with current public health guidance - this means your child may be asked to self-isolate for 14 days by their school (based on advice from their local health protection teams) if they have been in close, face to face contact with someone who has tested positive for the virus
- ensure that everyone cleans their hands more often than usual, including when they arrive, when they return from breaks, and before and after eating - this should be done for 20 seconds with soap and running water or hand sanitiser
- promote the 'catch it, bin it, kill it' approach, to ensure good respiratory hygiene
- enhance cleaning, including cleaning frequently touched surfaces more often

Schools will minimise contact and encourage maintaining distance as far as possible. They will decide how best to do this because it will be different for each school. This will involve asking children and young people to:

- stay within specified separate groups (or bubbles)
- maintain distance between individuals

### Local outbreaks

Schools will contact their local health protection team if they:

- have 2 or more confirmed cases of coronavirus among pupils or staff within 14 days
- see an increase in children or staff absence rates due to suspected or confirmed cases of coronavirus (COVID-19)

The local health protection team will advise what action is required. Usually, closure will not be necessary, but some groups may need to self-isolate. If an outbreak in a school is confirmed, a mobile testing unit may be dispatched. They will test everyone who may have been in contact with the person who has tested positive. Testing will first focus on the person's class, followed by their year group, then the whole school if necessary.

If your local area sees a spike in infection rates that results in localised community spread, the government will decide what actions need to be taken. Your child's school should provide remote education if:

- groups of pupils need to self-isolate
- a larger restriction of attendance at school is needed

## Face Coverings

**Schools have the discretion to require face coverings in communal areas where social distancing cannot be safely managed, if they believe that it is right in their circumstances.**

More information on [Face Masks is available here](#) or by searching 'face coverings in education.'

## Curriculum

The Government has set out what they expect schools to teach when pupils return. Schools will provide an ambitious and broad curriculum in all subjects. There may need to be changes to some subjects, such as PE and music, so that schools can teach these subjects as safely as possible.

## Extra-curricular activities

The Government advises that schools will be permitted to run breakfast and after-school activities. They must be delivered in line with the guidance on protective measures, so things may need to run things differently.

## Suspected symptoms of coronavirus amongst the school community

**The Academy** will fully engage with the NHS Test and Trace process and contact our local Public Health England health protection team. Parents/carers need to be ready to:

- book a test if you or your child are displaying symptoms. Pupils must not come into the school if they have symptoms, and must be sent home to self-isolate if they develop.
- provide details of anyone you have been in close contact with if you or your child test positive for coronavirus or if asked by NHS Test and Trace
- self-isolate if you have been in close contact with someone who develops coronavirus symptoms or someone who tests positive for coronavirus

Anyone who displays symptoms of coronavirus should get a test. Tests can be booked online through the NHS testing and tracing website. Parents must inform us immediately of the results:

- if you or your child tests negative, and if you or your child feel well and no longer have symptoms similar to coronavirus (COVID-19), you can stop self-isolating.
- if you or your child tests positive, you should follow the 'stay at home: guidance for households with possible or confirmed coronavirus infection' and must continue to self-isolate for at least 7 days from the onset of their symptoms and your child may only return to school if they do not have symptoms other than a cough.

### **Confirmed case of coronavirus amongst the school community**

**The Academy will take swift action if we become aware that someone who has attended has tested positive for coronavirus. We will contact the local health protection team that will carry out a rapid risk assessment to confirm who has been in close contact with the person during the period that they were infectious, and ensure they are asked to self-isolate. Based on the advice from the health protection team, we would then send home those pupils who have been in close contact with the person who has tested positive, advising them to self-isolate for 14 days since they were last in close contact with that person when they were infectious. Close contact means:**

- direct close contacts - face to face contact with an infected individual for any length of time, within 1 metre, including being coughed on, a face to face conversation, or unprotected physical contact (skin-to-skin)
- proximity contacts - extended close contact (within 1 to 2 metres for more than 15 minutes) with an infected individual

The health protection team will provide definitive advice on who must be sent home, and we will keep a record of pupils and staff in each bubble to help in this instance.

Household members of those contacts who are sent home do not need to self-isolate themselves unless your child who is self-isolating subsequently develops symptoms. If someone in a bubble that has been asked to self-isolate develops symptoms themselves within their 14-day isolation period they should follow 'stay at home: guidance for households with possible or confirmed coronavirus infection'. They should get a test, and:

- if the test delivers a negative result, they must remain in isolation for the remainder of the 14-day isolation period.
- if the test result is positive, they should inform us immediately, and must isolate for at least 7 days from the onset of their symptoms. Their household should self-isolate for at least 14 days from when the symptomatic person first symptoms had, following 'stay at home: guidance for households with possible or confirmed coronavirus infection'

### **If we have more than one confirmed case**

**If the Academy was to experience an outbreak (2 or more confirmed cases of coronavirus among pupils or staff within 14 days, or if there is an increase in absence due to suspected cases of coronavirus), we will contact our local health protection team. This team will advise any additional action, though the closure of the whole school will generally not be necessary.**

Where an outbreak in a school is confirmed, a mobile testing unit may be dispatched to test others who may have been in contact with the person who has tested positive. Testing will focus on the person's class, their year group, the whole school, if necessary. If our local area sees a spike in infection rates, we may be advised to implement further measures.