



July 2021

Dear Parents / Carers

It has certainly been another challenging year. I would like to firstly thank all parents, carers and wider family members and their friends for supporting our young people through this very difficult time. I would also like to thank you for the many lovely comments received verbally on the phone and by email thanking us for our work during this time, this means a lot to our staff family.

We again stayed open throughout the lockdown period earlier in the year providing care for children of key workers and for some of our other students. A huge thank you to all staff who have supported this whilst also teaching and providing feedback to students on our Google Classroom site.

It was wonderful to have all students return in March to learn back in the academy. On June 21st we also returned to specialist subject rooms, with our Year 7 students enjoying experiencing areas of the academy they had never been to.

The systems of control we will need to follow in September have been amended and a new risk assessment will be on the website before September. In summary for students:

- Bubbles have been removed - year groups will be able to mix at social times and in classrooms
- Students do not need to face in the same direction
- Non shared facilities in the academy currently such as toilets, the library and ICT suites can be used by all students
- Masks will not be required, however, if your child prefers to wear a mask at busy times that is fine
- The separate year group gates, separate year group detentions and staggering of arriving and leaving the academy are removed
- Hand washing stations and sanitisers will remain
- We will **keep** in place our one way system, IN and OUT doors and UP and DOWN stairs. This supports safety on our corridors, some of which are quite narrow. Our academy has grown in student number by approximately 120 students in the last two years and this September our new Year 7 will in fact be full, resulting in a three year increase of nearly 200 students. The projections are that we will be full in every year group for the foreseeable future, hence the requirement for a safe and orderly manner of movement around the site
- A teacher set seating plan will remain in place

You will have read that all schools have been asked to conduct two lateral flow tests on students (3-5 days apart) when they return in September. There will be more information coming to you about this.

Some systems of control change earlier than September, on the 19th July. We have decided to try and keep our academy as it has been for that final week of term to try and ensure a positive start to the holidays, hopefully with no isolations.

The overarching aim of our behaviour policy is to promote positive behaviour, to ensure our students grow into safe, respectful and responsible citizens and to allow them to learn in a calm environment. Our high standards and expectations remain.

Be safe, be respectful, be responsible

Outwood Grange Academies Trust, a company limited by guarantee registered in England and Wales with company number 06995649.

Registered office address: Potovens Lane, Outwood, Wakefield, West Yorkshire WF1 2PF.

VAT number: 158 2720 04. Outwood Grange Academies Trust is an exempt charity.

A list of Directors' names is open to inspection at our registered office.

Student Uniform and Resources

All students to please ensure they have their bag (large enough for an A4 folder). Students will receive their planner on their first day of return which then must be brought into the academy every day.

Please ensure that new uniform where required is purchased in plenty of time. I would like to take this opportunity to remind you of our uniform expectations:

- Full Academy uniform is expected at all times including uniform for PE
- Plain black socks when wearing trousers
- Plain black tights (at least 40 denier) when wearing a skirt (skirt NOT rolled over)
- Plain black, below the ankle, polishable, sensible school shoes (no canvas / plastic / trainers / boots, etc)
- **No jewellery** except a wristwatch (smart watches which connect to the internet/record media etc are not allowed). Please remember that new piercings will be expected to be removed on return to the academy, clear plastic jewellery is not allowed
- Make-up must be very discrete, eyebrows of normal shape and colour, fake eyelashes are not allowed
- No nail varnish or false nails and hair must be a natural hair colour
- Chewing gum, fizzy pop (including energy drinks), big bags of sweets and crisps etc are now **NOT** allowed anywhere on site. We are aiming to be a healthy eating site. Students may wish to bring a refillable water bottle – there are water stations in the dining room where free fresh water can be accessed. Please note that students **MUST** have a water bottle to be able to use these water dispensers.
- We are a **no mobile phone site**, phones are not allowed anywhere on the academy site. If your child chooses to bring in a phone, it must be switched off and in their bag. We are not liable for any breakages or theft.

To be safe for all, it is essential that students also have their own basic equipment (pen, pencil, ruler, rubber, glue stick, whiteboard pen etc). We ask that for safety reasons pencil sharpeners are NOT brought onto the academy site, every room has a heavy duty sharpener for students to use.

If possible it would be appreciated if your child could bring their own scientific calculator to use in lessons and have a reading book with them in their bag at all times.

I know that some students find it very difficult to be organised in bringing their own planner and equipment to school every day, however, this is part of becoming a young adult. Please support this routine with your child.

IPAY

Please remember to top up your child's IPay account if they need to purchase food at break or lunch.

Bike Storage

Students who wish to use the bike storage must obtain a permit in September. For the safety of all students using this area the rules on the permit must be adhered to otherwise the permit will be removed, this includes wearing a cycle helmet to and from the academy and arriving on time to use the storage facility.

Contact with parents and carers

Our priority is to be with and support students in the academy. Please contact us to arrange a time for discussion by phone or a meeting on site during the academy day on 01924 302560 or via email on enquiries@freeston.outwood.com or via our contact page on the website <https://www.freeston.outwood.com/contact>

Please remember that we need to be able to make contact with you. If you have changed your contact details it is vital that you inform us of any changes.

Attendance to the academy is vitally important

Please **do not** book holidays during term time as this will be counted as an unauthorised holiday and may incur a fine. Students must be in the academy unless they have Covid-19 symptoms, have been informed they must isolate, are too ill to leave their home for another reason or we have been informed of a prior appointment. Positive attendance is critical for your child to succeed. If you know that your child is going to be absent, please telephone the Academy where possible before 8:30am.

INSET Dates (students will **not** be in the Academy on these days):

- Monday 6th September 2021
- Tuesday 7th September 2021
- Friday 22 October 2021
- Jubilee Celebration Monday 27 June 2022 - to be confirmed
- Monday 25th July 2022
- Tuesday 26 July 2022

School Calendar of Events 2021/22	
Monday 6 September 2021	Term starts for staff Inset day 1
Tuesday 7 September 2021	Inset day 2
Wednesday 8 September to Friday 10 September 2021	Covid test 1 and phased return as below plan - see separate letter for full details
Tuesday 28 September 2021	Y6 Open Evening 5:00 - 7:00
Thursday 4 November 2021	Y11 Parents Evening 3:30 - 6:30
Thursday 2 December 2021	Y11 New College Taster Day
Thursday 9 December 2021	Y8 Parents Evening 3:30 - 6:30
Thursday 13 January 2022	Y9 Parents Evening 3:30 - 6:30
Thursday 20 January 2022	IAG Evening 5:00 - 7:00
Thursday 10 February 2022	Y7 Parents Evening 3:30 - 6:30
W/C 28 February 2022	Y11 Proposed formal mock exams
Thursday 31 March 2022	Y10 Parents Evening 3:30 - 6:30
Tuesday 5 July 2022	Y11 Prom @ Rogerthorpe Manor
Tuesday 12 July 2022	Y6 Information Evening 5:00 - 7:00

(Please check our website for regular updates)

TESTING PLAN (shared on separate letter regarding the testing procedures):

	Y7	Y8	Y9	Y10	Y11
Mon 6th Sep	INSET Day 1 - no students in the academy				
Tue 7th Sep	INSET Day 2 - no students in the academy				
Wed 8th Sep	Test 1 - year 7 students with consent + 30 minute isolation before joining students without consent. All students stay in the academy for the rest of the day				Test 1 - Y11 from 1.30pm and leave the site afterwards.
Thu 9th Sep	In the academy as normal	Test 1 - remaining year groups then leave the site afterwards. Year 8 @ 8.30am, Year 9 @ 11am, Year 10 @ 1.30pm			Return to the academy at 8.15am
Fri 10th Sep	In the academy as normal	Return to the academy at 8.15am	Return to the academy at 8.15am	Return to the academy at 8.15am	In the academy as normal
Mon 13th Sep	In the academy as normal, morning test 2 - straight back to lesson	In the academy as normal	In the academy as normal	In the academy as normal	In the academy as normal, afternoon test 2 - straight back to lesson
Tue 14th Sep	In the academy as normal	In the academy as normal, Test 2 all year 8 to 10 year groups during the day - straight back to lesson			In the academy as normal

Please note that we close on Friday 23rd July at 2.30pm if you have any concerns after this time please use enquiries@freeston.outwood.com or our contact page on the website <https://www.freeston.outwood.com/contact>. There will be a delay in response but someone will get back to you as soon as possible.

We are all really looking forward to what we hope will be a 'normal' year in September. I wish you all a lovely summer and look forward to seeing all students return in September.

Yours faithfully



Lisa Allott - Principal