

16 July 2020

Dear Parent/Carer

Y7 Preparation for September 2020

As we head towards what is the end of a very unusual academic year, we hope you and your families are well and that the last few weeks in Year 6 have been successful, with your child managing to enjoy some of the end of year activities that would have usually taken place.

We are very much looking forward to welcoming Y7 to their new school in September, and would like to take this opportunity to share some really important information with you, before we all break up. Please take time to go through the parent/carer presentation on the academy website. Although the presentation is lengthy it will provide specific details regarding the academy and expectations/information for September

Firstly, we want to thank you for your support so far, helping your child to access the transition website and all the information available on there. The page has now been updated with a video giving important information about the academy to our new starters. This can be accessed via: <https://www.bydales.outwood.com/transition>

We also hope that you have felt supported by the resources, recorded lessons and staff introduction videos that have taken place over the half term, giving your child the confidence to start secondary school in September, and the opportunity to ask questions.

To help to try and put your mind at rest, in these unprecedented times, we wanted to let you know what else we have been doing to support Year 6 children in their transition to secondary school. As a Trust, leading executives and senior leaders have been meeting weekly to discuss plans for the Year 6 transition, as we know how important it is to ensure a successful integration into our schools. During these meetings all aspects of transition have been discussed, with our most recent objective to look at bespoke planning for the September start.

Following the release of the government guidance for the full reopening of schools in September we are finalising our plans for the first day and first few weeks for Year 7. With this in mind, we are endeavouring to ensure that the necessities of starting secondary school are blended with some of the transition activities missed, whilst also clearly planning for students to gain the skills needed for the next stage in their academic life. In addition, we are considering how best to identify and close any gaps that have appeared in skills and knowledge during the 'lockdown' period.

We have been in contact with your child's primary school to gather pastoral and academic data, so we are best placed to plan for all aspects of their schooling, including any additional needs that they may have.

September still brings many challenges for schools, and we wanted to share some of the specific detail regarding the first few weeks with you:

- Year 7 students will start their secondary school on Wednesday 2 September, and will be the only year group in school for the day.
- Students will be placed into year group 'bubbles', and breaks and lunchtimes will be staggered to maintain government guidelines and support the country in tackling the spread of the COVID 19 infection.

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.

- Year 7 will be placed into a year group tutor group, and will initially be taught in this group.
- We are continuing to redesign the first few weeks for Year 7, and are committed to an enhanced pastoral programme to support students return to full time schooling and their transition to secondary school.
- This will include tasks and activities to support wellbeing and for students to gain necessary study skills and form a sense of belonging to their new year group and tutor group within the Academy. This will also identify students literacy and numeracy levels to allow for intervention and early support.

We will continue to work as a Trust and as an Academy to ensure a positive programme back to normality is realised, and look forward to working with parents, students and staff to do this.

In addition to this detail we have some logistics to communicate to you.

Uniform Collection

We are pleased that all uniform orders have been completed online with Trutex. As per letter dated 29 June, the collection day is Wednesday 29 July and you have been advised of the specific time slot you must attend to collect your uniform bundle. The event will take place in the Sports Hall and staff will be on hand to support with distribution and social distancing.

The bundle can then be taken home and tried on, and if any aspect needs changing then you will be able to bring it back at the same designated time the following day Thursday 30 July.

First Day

The Academy will reopen to Y7 students only on Wednesday 2 September, all other year groups will return on Thursday 3 September. On the first day **only** we expect to see Y7 students arrive for 8.20am, thereafter all year groups will have slightly staggered start times to allow for social distancing and hygiene routines when entering the academy. Y7 start time from Thursday 3 September will be 8.00am. Y7 students will enter via the Dining Hall entrance where they will be greeted by staff members and taken to their new classrooms and informed of their new tutor groups.

During the day students will be given their planners and timetables, and spend time with their tutor, going through lots of the details that they will need to know to successfully get started at Outwood Academy Bydales. Students will spend the afternoon completing the ACE Programme. There will be opportunities during the day to meet with staff and the Principal.

Lunch

For student lunches the academy uses a cashless system called 'Parentpay'. We will be issuing login details to you via post on week commencing 10 August 2020. When you receive this letter please use the information leaflet to immediately set up your child's account online and place money on your child's lunch account. You can then top up regularly online, view your child's spending and monitor what they eating, should you wish.

When this is done then your child will be able to purchase food from the academy canteen and we have scheduled time in the morning programme of the first day to complete the thumb print process. Thumbprint scanners will be sanitised after each use. If you are unable to set your child's account up prior to the start of term then a packed lunch will be required. Please email enquiries@bydales.outwood.com should you require any support with the Parentpay process.

All dietary requirements can be catered for, but please get in touch if you have questions or concerns about the food on offer. Some students still opt to bring a packed lunch regularly, and this is absolutely fine, these students still eat with their peers in the Dining Hall.

Travel Arrangements

We recently compiled a travel survey to support the Local Authority in considering plans for local bus networks, taking account of how we can consider the plans for travel to and from the Academy. The outcome of this will be communicated in due course.

The link below will take you to the R&CBC guidance page, and this may help answer some questions you have.

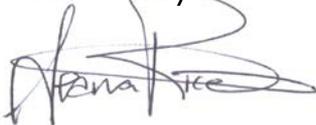
<https://www.redcar-cleveland.gov.uk/resident/schools-and-learning/advice/Pages/Home-to-School-Transport-Service.aspx>

We encourage students to be active by walking or cycling to the academy and we operate a bike permit process in which students and parents attend a safety briefing to understand the expectations for safe cycling.

Although there are still some aspects that need finalising, we hope you find the details helpful and the overall plan supportive. We will continue to communicate with you until all aspects are clear for everyone. For regular updates on Academy news and events, please visit our website www.bydales.outwood.com, follow us on Twitter @OutwoodBydales and our Outwood Academy Bydales Facebook and YouTube pages.

We are looking forward to a successful start in September.

Yours faithfully



Seana Rice
Principal