

Monday 17th August 2020



Orchard Mead Academy

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Executive Principal: Ms R Hindocha

Principal: Mr I Patel

Dear Parent/ Carer,

Ref: Parent/ Carer September 2020 School Reopening – Newsletter 2

I hope this letter finds you and your families well and in good health. Following on from last week's letter, please see below further guidance, and reminders of key messages for school reopening in September.

Students will begin to come into school from Tuesday 1st September. To enable them to adjust being in school and get accustomed to the new routines necessitated by the government guidance, we will invite year groups in as follows:

Tuesday 1 st September	Wednesday 2 nd September	Thursday 3 rd September	Friday 4 th September	Monday 7 th September
Year 7 Only	Years 7 and 11	Years 10 and 11	Years 8, 9 and 10	All students from every year group

Adjustments to normal routines

We will be trying to make school look and feel as 'normal' as possible upon return. However, there will need to be some changes to usual arrangements to comply with government guidance and make our schools as Covid secure as we can. For example, the government has advised that schools minimise contacts between students and staff, by creating separate "bubbles" or through maintaining distance between individuals. Government guidelines also advise schools to have different start and end times for different year groups and different lunch and break times for each year group. This is designed to help with infection control across year groups.

Therefore, we will be grouping students into year-group bubbles, forming mini-schools within the building with each bubble having their own designated area of the school. We have also adjusted school start and finish times for each year group as follows:

	Entrance / Exit Area	Start Time	Finish Time
Year 7	Student Reception Gate	8.30am	2.45pm
Year 8	Student Reception Gate - Straight to Science Block	9am	3.15pm
Year 9	Sports Hall Gate - Round to rear entrance of school	9am	3.15pm
Year 10	Sports Hall Gate - Round to rear entrance of school	8.30am	2.45pm
Year 11	Student Reception Gate	8am	3.30pm 2.30pm (Friday)

Year 11 have an extended day to enable us to provide vital catch-up tuition with their own teachers to enable them to complete their GCSE curriculum before the exam season in the summer.



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Arriving at and leaving school

In addition to the above mentioned staggered start and finish times, we are also encouraging all students and staff to walk or cycle to school more if possible. This is to combat the virus in different ways, by promoting healthy active travel, reducing congestion and supporting the demands on public transport. If you must drop off and collect your child, walking or in a vehicle (household only), please do so by parking with consideration at a safe, walkable distance from the school for your child. This is in order to reduce all forms of congestion and gathering around the school.

Similarly, students must not gather outside the school or at the school gates before or after school. Students are expected to go directly to their group or line up area on arrival, maintaining as much distance as possible. Students will be escorted into the building and they must wash their hands or sanitise immediately once entering the building.

School Gateway

To support us in adhering to government guidance the school will now be using a cashless system. Payments for school items, trips and lunch money will need to be paid online via the school gateway.

You can sign up to the School Gateway system by going to the website www.schoolgateway.com and signing up as a 'New User' with the email address and telephone number you have registered with the school.

Paying for school items online is quicker and easier for you, safer for children and more efficient for the school.

Learning Expectations

Our ambition is to resume the education, learning, wellbeing and wider development of our students by:

- Continuing to teach an ambitious and broad curriculum in all subjects with some modification to the curriculum where needed due to the nature of the subject and staying in line with our risk assessment
- Planning on the basis of the educational needs of students
- Creating time and capacity to cover the most important missed content required for progression
- Prioritising teaching time to address significant gaps in students' knowledge
- Increasing the emphasis on reading to assist with filling of gaps in learning
- Making effective use of regular formative assessment
- Making remote education a long-term sustainable offer alongside class teaching to allow continuous learning in and out of school. This will provide the resources and support for students to make good progress
- Use funding for catch-up support to address individual needs of students particularly the vulnerable, year 7 and KS4 in order to narrow and address attainment gaps, accelerate learning and academic progress

Again, if you have any concerns, feedback or suggestions to anything in this newsletter, please feel free to email info@orchard-tmet.uk

Best regards



Imtiaz Patel
Principal