

Monday 24<sup>th</sup> August 2020



**Orchard Mead Academy**

Keyham Lane West | Hamilton  
Leicester | LE5 1RT

t. 0116 241 3371

e. [info@orchard-tmet.uk](mailto:info@orchard-tmet.uk)

w. [www.orchard-tmet.uk](http://www.orchard-tmet.uk)

**Executive Principal:** Ms R Hindocha

**Principal:** Mr I Patel

Dear Parent/ Carer,

**Ref: Parent/ Carer September 2020 School Reopening – Newsletter 3**

I hope this letter finds you and your families well and in good health. This is my final newsletter with further guidance and reminders before students start returning to school next week.

**Behaviour and Attitude expectations**

Our ambition is to resume the education, learning, wellbeing and wider development of our students to get back on track with high expectations. We are committed to:

- Support the rebuilding of friendships and social engagement
- Address and equip students to respond to issues linked to the pandemic e.g. bereavement
- Support students with their physical and mental wellbeing
- Setting clear, reasonable and proportionate expectations of Behaviour and Attitudes to learning
- Communicate policies clearly and consistently to all stakeholders, making clear the consequences, incentives and rewards

All hygiene, social distancing, attitude to learning and behaviour expectations must be clearly understood, and consistently supported by all students and stakeholders. Any behaviour outside of this guidance that risks the safety of others will not be tolerated. Isolation provision will be used sparingly and students will be sent home immediately if required. Please note that school powers related to exclusion and disciplinary remain in place.

**NHS Test and Trace Process**

In line with the Department for Education guidance, ALL students, staff, parents/carers and all attendees of the school site must follow and understand the NHS Test and Trace process and be ready and willing to:

- book a test if they or their child are displaying symptoms. Students must not come into the school if they have symptoms, and will be sent home to self-isolate if they develop symptoms
- provide details of anyone you or your child have been in close contact with if you test positive for coronavirus (COVID-19) or if asked by NHS Test and Trace
- self-isolate if you or your child have been in close contact with someone who tests positive or if anyone in the household develops symptoms

Parents/ Carers and staff must inform the school immediately of the results of a test:

- Tests negative: If you feel well and no longer have symptoms, they (and the household) can stop self-isolating.
- Tests positive: You must follow the 'stay at home guidance' and continue to self-isolate for 10 days from the onset of symptoms and then return to school. Please note that that cough or anosmia (loss of taste and smell) can last for several weeks once the infection has gone. Other members of their household should continue self-isolating for the full 14 days.

In the event of a positive case, we will contact the local Public Health England health protection team (PHEHPT) immediately. At this point the PHEHPT will carry out a rapid risk assessment to confirm our groups or 'bubbles'

of close contact and work with the schools through the situation. Based on the advice from the health protection team, we will inform parents and carers definitive advice on who must be sent home. This is likely to include:

- direct close contacts – those who have had face to face close contact within 1 metre
- proximity contacts – those who have had extended close contact (within 1 to 2 metres for more than 15 minutes) with the infected individual
- those travelling in a small vehicle, like a car, with the infected individual

Household members (or staff) who were in close contact to students sent home, do not need to self-isolate themselves unless they subsequently develop symptoms, but they should get a test. We will NOT share the names or details of infected individuals with stakeholders other than with public health teams, where it is essential to protect others.

In the event, that the schools have two or more confirmed cases within 14 days, or we have an overall rise in sickness absence where CV19 is suspected, we will:

- continue to work closely with the local health protection team and follow any additional action or advice provided
- consider other precautionary measures such as asking the entire group or bubble to self-isolate (whole school closures are not advised and will only be on the advice of health protection team)
- engage in consultation with the local Director of Public Health on other broader measures such as a mobile testing unit to test others (class, year group, school) who may have been in contact with the individuals who have tested positive

#### **External providers**

Parents/ Carers are strongly advised to avoid or limit use of external providers. This includes both for transport but also childcare or supplementary providers particularly if they cannot provide assurance that they are considering their own protective measures in line with the school measures and groups.

#### **Visitors**

Please also note that any meetings will be by appointment only and in most instances conducted remotely. In line with government guidance, no visitors including parents and carers outside of the school groups and bubbles will be allowed. However, this does not include specialists, therapists, clinicians and other essential staff for students with SEND.

#### **Equipment and resources**

Students must have their own frequently used core equipment, such as pencils and pens and they must not be shared. Water fountains will not be in operation until further notice so students are encouraged to bring in a filled water bottle to school every day for personal use only. Classroom based resources, such as books can be used and shared within the bubble but will be cleaned/ disinfected when required along with all frequently touched surfaces. On the rare occasion that resources or equipment is shared between groups, such as sports, art and science equipment they will be cleaned meticulously or left for a period of 48 hours (72 hours for plastics).

I know there has been a lot of information in the 3 newsletters this month. We are really looking forward to welcoming the students next week and work closely in line with guidance to ensure our students are safe and receive the best education possible.

If you have any concerns, feedback or suggestions, please feel free to email [info@orchard-tmet.uk](mailto:info@orchard-tmet.uk)

Best regards



Imtiaz Patel  
**Principal**