



4<sup>th</sup> March 2021

**Orchard Mead Academy**

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**Principal: Mr I Patel**

Dear Parent/ Carer,

### **March 2021 School Reopening**

I hope this letter finds you and your families well and in good health. Please see below guidance and key messages for the return of all children to school on Monday 8<sup>th</sup> March.

We have now successfully tested Years 9-11 on-site with other students scheduled for the remainder of this week. The process has been very successful and students have responded well to all aspects of the process. We will unfortunately be unable to add more students to the testing schedule after this week.

Please remember not to send your child to school if they or anyone in their household:

- Has a persistent cough
- A high temperature or
- A loss of taste or smell

### **Risk Assessment and Masks**

The risk assessment and processes in school are very similar to what we had in Term 1. The main difference is that the use of face coverings in classrooms is **strongly encouraged but not mandatory**. All stakeholders will be educated around the importance of wearing the face masks and our responsibility to protect others and ourselves in close proximity. Students will continue to be expected to wear face coverings in the communal areas such as corridors when they are moving between lessons and activities.

All hygiene, social distancing, attitude to learning and behaviour expectations must be clearly understood, and consistently supported by all students and stakeholders. We will remind students of these expectations on their return. 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.

### **Attendance expectations**

As per government guidance, attendance to school is mandatory for all students from Monday 8<sup>th</sup> March unless they have been asked to isolate due to medical reasons. The Academy is continually striving to raise attendance levels in order to maximise the educational achievements of all pupils, therefore we will continue to monitor attendance. We regard the regular attendance of pupils at school as being vital to each pupil's education and development. Parents and carers are responsible, by law, for making sure that their children attend school regularly, and not absent without good reason.



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We would like the opportunity to work with parents should you face any difficulties with your child's attendance. If you would like to discuss any concerns surrounding attendance, please do not hesitate to contact the school. If your child has any worries about the return to school, we are more than happy to discuss this further.

### Reminder of school start and finish times

	Entrance / Exit Area	Start Time	Finish Time
Year 7	Sports Hall Gate - Round to rear entrance of school	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	Student Reception Gate	8.30am	2.45pm
Year 11	Student Reception Gate	8.15am	3.30pm

### Learning Expectations

Our ambition is to continue 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
- Creating time and capacity to cover the most important remote learning content required for progression
- Increasing the emphasis on reading
- Making effective use of regular assessment

We are also 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

### Behaviour and Attitude expectations

To support students to meet the learning expectations above, it is important as a school we have a clear focus on the behaviours and attitudes that support learning. On our return, we will be focusing on the following:

- **Uniform/Equipment:** It is very important all students attend school in the full uniform and have the correct equipment to ensure they are ready to learn and work hard. Where a student does not have the correct uniform, we will arrange for contact to be made with parents to inform them and students will return to classroom learning once the matter is resolved. I strongly encourage you to get in touch with the school if you have any concerns around uniform and any support you may require. We will be asking students to stand behind desks when they enter a classroom and staff will be expected to check on uniform and equipment so learning can commence. A reminder that students may wear a grey V-neck which is not school branded. Also, given the circumstances, we will allow students to wear the old branded blazer until further notice.

- Students in Years 7-9 will continue to line up outside at the start of school day and after breaks and lunches. Students are expected to be facing forward in their form classes and have their mask ready to enter the building. Students are silent to ensure they are ready for any notices from the members of staff present. This allows for students to enter in an orderly manner in to the building and supports staff transition across the building to ensure we are moving to our lessons safely
- Reading Routines: In-between lessons, students will continue to read a book to increase our emphasis on reading to support children to close gaps. We also use this opportunity to allow staff movements to lessons and student are supervised by support staff during this time. All students will have the opportunity to loan out books on Monday if they do not have a reading book.

We will spend some time on Monday going through these expectations with our students. These expectations will allow us to be safe, support our students to be ready for learning and allow us to improve the progress our students make over time.

We are really looking forward to welcoming the students next week. If you have any questions or queries, please feel free to email [info@orchard-tmet.uk](mailto:info@orchard-tmet.uk) or contact the school on 01162413371

Yours Sincerely



Imtiaz Patel  
Principal

