

Orchard Mead Academy

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8th March 2021

Principal: Mr I Patel

Dear Parent/ Carer,

Parent/ Carer March 2021 School Reopening

I hope this letter finds you and your families well and in good health.

It was great this morning having the children returning to school and having the opportunity to engage in face to face conversations and learning. Students will be spending the majority of their morning with their tutor and peers to support their transition into learning and be reminded of key routines and expectation. It has been a challenging time for all and we at Orchard Mead are doing our best to ensure young people are supported with their wellbeing and education. We are of course mindful of keeping everyone safe and ensuring all adults and children are complying with the risk assessment we have in place, which you can find on our website.

We have now successfully tested all year groups on-site and will continue with the 2nd and 3rd tests during the school day. We had 1 positive case last week and we ensured that any close contacts on site were informed and necessary steps were taken to keep stakeholders safe. If there is a positive LFD test result, the individual has a legal requirement to self-isolate and **MUST** self-isolate **IMMEDIATELY** in line with government [guidance](#), and contact tracing will need to commence. Students that have been in close contact with the child will also need to isolate for 10 days. I know we had families left frustrated during Term 1 when this was initiated but we must follow the guidance to ensure our community are safe. A confirmatory PCR test is not required when the test has taken place at school.

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

Uniform and Equipment

As highlighted in the letter and video sent last week, we will be having a key focus on uniform and equipment. I have included a reminder of the school uniform in the leaflet and students are expected to arrive and remain in their school uniform throughout their day. Where there have been concerns this morning, we will be communicating with parents and supporting families where required. Please also find below the equipment list students must have every day and this will be monitored regularly. We firmly believe that students dressed in the right manner and suitably equipped will allow for learning to take place and students to flourish.

All students are expected to have the following equipment as a minimum:

A pencil case, pen, pencil, ruler, Casio Fx83GTX calculator, a reading book and specialist equipment such as PE Kit.

Students will be expected to have their equipment on the table for every lesson and we have given out equipment to students today where required to support them back in to their learning.

Attendance expectations

A reminder that as per government guidance, attendance to school is mandatory for all students from today unless they have been asked to isolate due to medical reasons. If you would like to discuss any concerns surrounding attendance, please do not hesitate to contact the school.

As always, if you have any questions or queries, please feel free to email info@orchard-tmet.uk or contact the school on 01162413371

Yours sincerely

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Imtiaz Patel', written over a horizontal line.

Imtiaz Patel
Principal