

18 August 2021



Orchard Mead Academy

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Dear Parent/carers

Executive Principal: Mr M Oldman

Arrangements for safe opening of school.

We are really looking forward to your children starting or returning to Orchard Mead Academy on Wednesday 25 August (Year 7) and Thursday 26 August (All years).

With the latest government guidance for schools, we will be able to return to a more normal secondary school experience for our students. The guidance points out that direct clinical risks to children are extremely low and every adult has been offered a first vaccine and the opportunity for 2 doses by mid-September so schools should be able to operate with much reduced measures. For example:

- Classes no longer have to remain in small, consistent groups (**bubbles**) so different grouping arrangements for different subjects are permissible.
- We will be able to have **assemblies** in person with the year group gathered in our hall.
- If there is a positive case, **close contacts** will now be identified via NHS Test and Trace and schools will no longer be expected to undertake contact tracing. Therefore, classes will not be sent home as before by schools. Instead, NHS Test and Trace will work with the positive case to identify close contacts. Contacts from a school will only be traced by NHS Test and Trace where the positive case specifically identifies the individual as being a close contact.
- From 16 August 2021, **children under the age of 18 years old will no longer be required to self-isolate** if they are contacted by NHS Test and Trace as a close contact of a positive COVID-19 case. Instead, children will be contacted by NHS Test and Trace, informed they have been in close contact with a positive case and advised to take a PCR test. We would encourage all our pupils to take a PCR test if advised to do so. Children can continue to come to school while they take a PCR test and await results.
- **Face coverings** are no longer required but are recommended in enclosed and crowded places (including public transport) so we will support students and staff who wish to wear face coverings to do so. Hands should be washed/sanitised regularly before and after handling face coverings.

While adopting the new guidance, we will continue to monitor risks and implement our thorough risk assessment which will be kept under review. We will be continuing with the following control measures:

1. **Ensuring good hygiene.** Frequent and thorough hand cleaning should now be regular practice. To this end, students will be required to sanitise their hands on entry into the building, in the morning, after break and after lunch. Hand sanitisers will be available at the entrance to the buildings and students will be asked to sanitise as they enter. This will be monitored by staff. Hand sanitisers available at the entrance to dining area and students will be asked to sanitise as they enter and as they leave. This will be monitored by staff.

2. **A cleaning schedule** will be implemented throughout the site, ensuring all areas and equipment are all thoroughly cleaned at least twice per day, focussing on frequently touched surfaces.
3. **Ventilation:** our classrooms and other areas will continue to be well ventilated with windows kept open.
4. If anyone develops COVID-19 symptoms, however mild, they will be sent home to follow public health advice and seek a PCR test.

We ask parents to support the safe running of our school by:

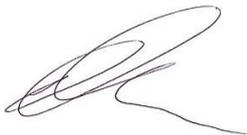
1. Please remind yourselves of symptoms, isolation guidance and **make school aware** if your child is showing symptoms of Covid 19 (a high temperature, a persistent cough, or a loss or change to the sense of taste or smell). Parents can contact the school by telephone or email.
2. Following public health advice on when to self-isolate and what to do. Children should not come into school if they have symptoms (a high temperature, a persistent cough, or a loss or change to the sense of taste or smell), have had a positive test result or other reasons requiring them to stay at home due to the risk of them passing on COVID-19 (for example, they are required to quarantine).

School attendance is mandatory for all pupils of compulsory school age. We are confident that if we all follow the measures above, we will be safely able to run our school and offer a full curriculum and wider experience. We have a thorough risk assessment in place outlining all our safety measure. This will be available to view on our website shortly.

I have also attached a reminder of the footwear and uniform guidance.

If you have any other queries, please do not hesitate to contact us.

Yours sincerely,



Mark Oldman
Executive Principal

Guidance for footwear



Dressed for success and equipped to learn

We have high expectations of all of our students and we expect them to **wear the Orchard Mead uniform with pride and to be correctly equipped for learning each day.** This leaflet sets out our expectations to help parents/carers and students to prepare for the new academic year. If you need help, please contact the school.



Uniform:

Uniform can be purchased from Uniform Direct, 54-56 Humberstone Gate, Leicester.

www.uniform-direct.com

- **Navy Academy blazer** with school logo, [available from Uniform Direct](#)
- **Plain white collared school shirt**, buttoned to the neck (long or short sleeves are permitted)
- House tie, [available from Uniform Direct](#)
- **Dark grey business trousers.** These must not be leggings, jeggings or jeans. They must not be skinny or slim fit and must be loose from the hip to ankle.
- Or **blue tartan Academy skirt**, length available are 20", 22" or 24". Skirts should be worn to the knee and not rolled up, [available from Uniform Direct](#)
- **Dark grey knitted V-necked jumper** (optional). This must be plain grey. No other jumpers or sweatshirts are allowed.
- **Totally plain, all black footwear.** No coloured laces, coloured stitching, **visible logos** or patterns are allowed. Heels must **not be higher than 3cm.** Footwear must be clean.
- **Plain black, navy, grey or flesh coloured tights** may be worn. Black leggings to the ankle may be worn under the skirt.



PE Kit

- **Navy/Royal PE Polo Shirt** with the Orchard Mead Logo, [available from Uniform Direct](#)
- **Navy/black** tracksuit bottoms or shorts [available from Uniform Direct](#) (girls may wear navy/black skirt)
- Suitable trainers
- An optional jumper/fleece with the Orchard Mead logo, [available from Uniform Direct](#)



Equipment

Students are expected to come to school each day with the equipment that they need in order to help them to learn and flourish:

- suitable school bag
- pencil case,
- pen,
- pencil,
- ruler
- Casio Fx83GTX calculator (can be purchased from school)



Wearing our uniform with pride

Dressed for success....

We have high expectations of all of our students and we expect them to wear the Orchard Mead uniform with pride.

Therefore:

- Students wear the navy blazer with a white shirt and school tie at all times. Staff may give permission for the blazer to be removed in lessons.
- Students wear a plain white collared school shirt, buttoned to the neck. Shirts must be tucked in.
- Students may choose to wear either dark grey business trousers or the academy tartan school skirt. Trousers must not be leggings, jeggings or jeans. Trousers must not be skinny or slim fit and must be loose from the hip to ankle.
- Students must wear the correct length skirt, choosing from the 3 lengths available at Uniform Direct. Skirts must be worn to the knee and must not be rolled over at the waistband.
- Students wear the House tie each day. Ties will be tied correctly, tie length must meet the waistband of the skirt or trousers. The two House coloured strips on the tie must be visible
- A suitable coat for the weather may be worn over the top of the blazer. No hoodies, denim or tracksuit tops are permitted. Students must not wear coats under their blazer. Coats must not be worn in classrooms
- A dark grey knitted V-neck school jumper may be worn underneath the blazer.
- Students must wear their lanyards and ID badges at all times
- Jewellery must be discreet—necklaces should be inside the shirt, rings must not present a health and safety concern. No visible piercings are allowed with the exception of:
 - Earrings – small studs only
 - Small single nose stud
- Head scarves and turbans must only be worn in plain black, white, navy or grey. Head scarves must
 - be tucked into the collar of the shirt so that the full school tie is visible at all times
- Hair accessories must only be black, white, grey or navy blue
- Coloured nail varnish is not allowed. False, acrylic or gel nails are not permitted. Nails should be kept short and neat.
- Makeup must be discreet.
- Only plain navy, black, grey or flesh coloured tights may be worn. Plain black leggings, to the ankle, may be worn under the skirt.
- Footwear will be totally plain and all black. No coloured laces, coloured stitching, visible logos or patterns are allowed. Heels must not be higher than 3cm. Footwear must be clean.
- It is the expectation that students wear the blazer at all times. In classrooms, students may request permission to remove this from their teacher. Whilst outside at break and lunchtimes, blazers may be removed in warm weather. After playing outside and before going inside, blazers should be put back and shirts tucked back in.

The academy reserves the right to determine what it considers to be acceptable in all of the above requirements.



