26th June 2020

Dear Parents/Carers,

Due to changes in the Government's advice and guidance this Bank Holiday weekend, the proposed start date for Year 10/12’s phased return will now be the 15th June not the 8th June as previously advised.  As well as guidance on minimising risks, the updated document sets out “expectations for secondary schools from 15th June”, these being:

* the continued provision for vulnerable children / the children of key workers,
* the continued provision of remote education to all other students,
* to ‘provide some face-to-face support to supplement the remote education of year 10 and year 12 pupils, with a clear expectation that remote education will continue to be the predominant form of education delivery for these year groups and that this should be of high quality.’

Below is the link to the document:

<https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/preparing-for-the-wider-opening-of-schools-from-1-june/planning-guide-for-secondary-schools>

I am writing to update you and recap on the plans we are putting in place here at Ormiston Rivers Academy.

The current provision for the children of key workers and other eligible children will continue throughout, including June 1st onwards. However please ensure that you have completed the key worker form so we know what days your child/children will be on site. This is available on the website but the link is below to help:

<https://docs.google.com/forms/d/e/1FAIpQLSdmhmlzh__nJFekepOpZ-hY4p2CnLcZ8J2O9IEK2GAnZvwGqw/viewform?usp=send_form>

Please be assured that the safety of the children and your family and of our staff is our number one priority. We have taken measures, following Government advice and beyond, to ensure that any opening for more children is done safely. Every school has had to complete a risk assessment, therefore, every school's approach may be slightly different and there are a number of factors that contribute to this.

We will be opening for more students from the **15th June,** however the week beginning 1st June your child will receive the timetable for the remaining few weeks.

If your child is in Year 10 the majority of teaching for this term will remain remote via Google classrooms or the work packs that have been made available. Please continue to support your child with their remote learning. It is vital that they engage with all the opportunities offered so that we keep any gaps in their learning to a minimum. However, Year 10 will have the offer of one face to face teaching day per week; this day will be run slightly differently. Every day that your child is in school they will receive one hour of English, Maths and Science and will be taught by a specialist subject teacher, but not necessarily the teacher they have had this year. In English, students will be using this time to prepare and deliver the speaking and listening component of their English Language GCSE - something that students can still participate in from home, should you choose to not send your child in to the academy. They will also have the opportunity to spend some time on wellbeing/mental health/revision skills in preparation for Year 11. They also may have PE in the remaining time they are on site so please send appropriate footwear for your child. Unfortunately, we can not offer other subjects at this stage as, following our risk assessment and DfE guidance, it would not be safe to do so, and I am not prepared to put students or staff at unnecessary risk.

Once on site, students will remain in one classroom with a maximum of 15 students for Year 10. The members of staff will rotate to minimise students moving around the academy. Students will have a break time but will be escorted to an area of the school where that group will remain; they will not mix with the other Year 10 group that is on site and will be in different locations and on different breaks. The students will arrive at school at 9.15am and finish at 1.30pm. For those requiring transport by bus, a timetable will be issued prior to the 15th June. Students will be allocated a desk and they will use that desk each time they come on site. A new exercise book/pen will be given so they can use this for the day and when they return, as we can not have students/staff sharing equipment. Students should bring in a calculator as they will need this for maths, as we can not provide these for every student.  Students will also need to wear suitable clothing so they can participate in PE activities which will take place. All teaching resources will be electronic. If photocopies need to be used, they will be ‘single use’ and students will need to take them home at the end of the day. Students do not need to bring in any work that they have produced so far, this still needs to remain at home for the time being.

Students will be able to order a selection of food from a menu, this will then be brought to them in a grab bag so students can eat at break time if they wish. We ask that you ensure money is on your child’s account as no transferring of money or scanning of thumbprints will be able to take place. Alternatively students can bring in a packed lunch with them to eat at break time however they must not share items of food with the other students in their group.

We do not expect students to wear their uniforms, so they may wear comfortable clothes that can be easily washed. However we do ask that the clothes are appropriate, eg: no cropped tops/ ripped jeans showing flesh etc. Again, clothing should be appropriate for them to be able to participate in PE activities each day they attend school.

Year 10 will be divided into groups and you will be notified week beginning 1st June which day your child will be allocated. It is imperative that you stick to the same day, as the groups need to stay the same and cannot be mixed. We will set where possible, but staff will be differentiating to ensure all students make progress. Students, sadly, may not be with friends but this is a good opportunity for them to get to know others in the year group.

Whilst on site the pastoral team will be in each day, they will have an informal wellbeing meeting with every student over the month to offer support.

With regards to transport, we have been working with Fords to ensure that we can transport the students safely. As a result, extra buses will be put on to ensure that the students can safely socially distance on the bus following the guidance. We do, however, expect students to follow the safety advice as we will not have members of staff enforcing this on the buses, so we ask that you, as parents or carers, reinforce the importance of this with your child.

For students being dropped off and picked up, we ask that only one parent/carer drops off and collects your child.  You must remain in your car if driving, or outside the main gate if walking, and not gather at the main reception while students are entering or leaving the academy.

Reception and booking meetings - we ask that parents/carers do not come on site.  If a meeting is required, please contact the relevant member of staff and they will arrange to do this virtually. Staff will not meet with parents/carers face to face at any point during this period.

Discipline - under these new challenging circumstances we must insist that students follow clear instructions at all times. If students fail to do so we will need to make contact with you, and they must be collected to ensure everyone is kept safe. Attached is a copy of the home/school agreement which has been updated for this period of time. Week beginning 8th June we will also be sending a further parent survey to ensure that we have up-to-date contact details for every student.  Please ensure that this is completed prior to your child returning to school.

Year 12 from the 15th June:

As Year 12 students, you have selected a smaller choice of options subjects for your A levels.  Therefore, you will come into the academy only when a subject that you study is being taught. For example, if you study accounting this will be on every Monday. You may be in three times over a two week timetable and you will receive further information regarding this week beginning 1st June. However if you are a student studying level 1 Mechanics and resits for English and Maths, you will not be required to come on site as your course has ended and results have been submitted to the board for examinations.  In addition, if you study a one year course you will not be required to attend as only two year courses are running this term. If you are unsure please contact the co-heads of Sixth Form.

I know that you will have many questions about returning to school; about how things will work  in this “new normal” environment. We understand that you will need to feel confident about the arrangements. I hope that this letter gives you sufficient detail to allow you to decide if you wish to send your child into school. The DfE have made it clear that attendance is not compulsory; however, as a school we will make contact with you regarding attendance as part of our safeguarding procedures.

We respect that parents/carers are best placed to determine whether their children come to school, if eligible, or continue learning at home. We understand that each child's circumstances are different. For example, coming to school for some children may risk the health of another family member. Whilst being in school may be an option for certain year groups, children will be encouraged, not compelled, to attend. As such, our staff are committed to supporting the learning of all students whether at school or home.

What do I do now?

Please continue with your child’s remote learning. We remain open to provide childcare for the relevant families, including the children of key workers. The food voucher scheme also continues as normal for those eligible. If your child is in Years 7, 8 or 9, there will be no change in June or, probably, for the remainder of the Summer Term. Work will continue to be set on the Google Classrooms for these year groups, and  we also have paper based booklets available in the main reception to collect if needed. Well-being calls will continue to be made.

Year 10 and Year 12 students will receive a bespoke timetable for the new arrangements week beginning June 1st.  These will be emailed out to parents/carers.

On site, the following health and safety provision has been put in place:

* Separate entrances for groups.
* Strict one-way system around the academy - ground floor only will be used
* Doors will remain open to reduce touching, unless it is a fire door.
* Additional signage in place in washrooms with reminders about hand-washing.
* Designated individual group areas, in separate areas of the Academy.
* Hand sanitizer in every classroom, as well as 10 devices around the academy
* Designated toilets for each group.
* Designated break area for each group.
* Food delivered to areas to minimise circulation within the building.
* 2 metre distance markers in all ground floor areas and sixth form.
* Desks marked for individual students, with appropriate distancing in place following the guidelines.
* Equipment will not be shared under any circumstances.
* Increased cleaning throughout the day with anti-bacterial wipes in every classroom.
* Staff will be supervising students at break time to ensure they stay safe.

We would also ask that you continue to play your part in the return to school. For instance,

no one should come to school if they are displaying symptoms of coronavirus. If your child does have symptoms please inform us straight away and apply for a test. More information about this can be found via this link:  <https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/coronavirus-covid-19-implementing-protective-measures-in-education-and-childcare-settings/coronavirus-covid-19-implementing-protective-measures-in-education-and-childcare-settings>

I am sure that many of you will have questions about this, and I hope that these can be answered, broadly, by the Government guidance found at this FAQ [here](https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/closure-of-educational-settings-information-for-parents-and-carers/reopening-schools-and-other-educational-settings-from-1-june). However, please do let me know if you have any further questions. I will do my best to answer these but I hope you will appreciate that I will be limited by what the Government has so far made public.

I wanted to update you with the latest guidance to reassure you that everything that has emerged since my previous extensive communication regarding our plans continues to be relevant. Our planning has always been in line with the emerging new guidance from the government.

I realise that this is a lot of information to absorb, but I hope that this update is useful to give you the details from the government and assure you that we are working very much along these lines.

If you do have any questions please do contact me directly. Ebaker@ormistonriversacademy.co.uk

Stay safe and well.

Emma Baker

Principal