

September 11th 2020

Dear Parents and Carers

Update at the end of the first full week!

We have had a busy week. The children have had to learn and get used to an entirely new way of working and for the most part they have done this superbly. Today as I walked around the academy I could tell that many of the students were exhausted and will probably sleep well this weekend, that goes for the staff too!

As was to be expected there have been some teething problems and we have already had to rejig timetables and move things around to ensure everything works smoothly. We are changing the Year 10 timetable to get them out of the science labs more often and also purchasing new seats with backs to make their time in the lessons they have in the labs more comfortable.

Reducing spread of virus

I have attached the latest flow chart for parents so you can make the correct decision about whether to send your child to academy if they are unwell.

In short it says that students must not come to academy if they have one or more of these symptoms identified by the NHS

- High temperature – guidance says 37.8c or above
- New, continuous cough – a lot for more than an hour; 3 or more episodes in 24 hrs
- Loss or change to your sense of smell or taste

They should self-isolate and get tested as soon as possible. Please refer to flow chart. If you take a test I would be grateful if you would inform the academy of the result so we can implement Test and Trace and other protective measures as necessary.

Year bubbles

A few parents were confused by the size of the Bubbles thinking their children would be in a single class bubble, this just doesn't work with the secondary curriculum so we operate Year Bubbles (based on Government advice) which for Wey Valley means about 180 students to a Bubble. Students will continue to be taught in a separate zone of the academy from other bubbles and have their own lunchtime slot and separate play areas.

Wey Valley Academy

Sian Thomas, BEd (Hons), CEO - AAT

Jon Webb, BA (Hons), Director of Secondary Education

Rob Russell, BEd (Hons), Principal

www.veyvalley-academy.co.uk

E office@veyvalley-academy.co.uk

T 01305 817000

Dorchester Road, Weymouth, Dorset. DT3 5AN

Attendance and behaviour

The attendance this week has been very good, thank you for getting your children to academy and on time. I am told by teachers who were here prior to lockdown that the behaviour of students in lessons has also dramatically improved. This is good considering they have not been sat in classrooms for six months. However, I want it to be even better and will be asking Heads of Year to contact the parents of the few students who are not getting it right so we can work together for the benefit of all students.

Canteen – food and drink

As from Monday a limited range of grab and go hot food will be available to purchase the menu is at the bottom of this letter. Please can I remind students to bring a drink to the academy. We can refill water bottles at either canteen. You will also need to add credit to your son or daughter's account as we operate a cashless system at the academy.

PE days

Most students have had PE now and most were suitably dressed. I must stress that as from next week **Hoodies must not be worn** and girls should have consideration for their dignity when choosing which items of PE kit to wear, remembering they will be in classrooms for the majority of the day.

Departure of students and traffic on site

The students all leave at 3.10pm, we have not staggered this as we recognise that many have siblings in different Year groups and need to walk home together and the dedicated student only buses arrives and departs at specific times. This creates a problem with parents driving onto the academy site to collect their children when we are trying to keep students moving and get them safely offsite.

I have repeatedly asked that parents arrange to collect their children offsite, but my requests are being ignored by many parents. This is causing a build-up of cars and slowing the departure of students from academy, which needs to be quick under our Covid19 precautions.

I am going to discuss this with the other schools on our campus and may look to **close the main gates to all traffic** if parents continue to block the road rather than arranging to pick students up away from the academy site. Please help me with this.

Travel to Wey Valley

Students should avoid public transport and walk, cycle or scoot to the academy if possible. If your child does have to use public transport, please remind them to wear a mask and clean their hands on arrival at the academy.

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Equipment required by students

Two or more black or blue ink pens
Two or more HB pencils
Four or more coloured pencils
An eraser 30 cm ruler
Protractor Pencil sharpener
At least one highlighter pen
Scientific Calculator (see advice from maths department on website)

Wearing of face coverings in academy (The Ambitions Academies Trust Guidance)

Following the recent changes to the national precautions against Covid19 including the "Rule of 6", the Trust is meeting on Monday to review the guidance, including whether we should make the wearing of face coverings in communal spaces mandatory. As you know at the present time, I have said anyone can wear a face covering anywhere on site, it is a personal choice.

I would ask that with the Rule of 6 being introduced you support the work we are doing at Wey Valley by enforcing this with your children so that they are not congregating in large groups outside of academy as we would want to protect the integrity of our Bubble system as much as possible.

In line with national guidance, pupils travelling to and from the academy on either public or academy specific transport/taxis must always wear a face mask.

Uniform

I am aware of some families having issues with obtaining academy uniform. If you are still having issues please contact your child's Head of Year. I intend to review the uniform as the year progresses and will contact parents for their views later in the year.

It is expected that all students will wear the academy uniform and be compliant with rules concerning makeup and jewellery. Please check the website for the full uniform and jewellery rules.

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Mobile Phones

I have made it very clear in letters to parents and when addressing the students that mobile phones are not to be used on the Wey Valley campus. Students have been given warnings this week but from Monday if any staff see a mobile phone inside or outside of the building on the campus site we will confiscate it and the student will have to collect it at the end of the day. This is in line with the policy operated at all the other local secondary schools. Parents can help by not messaging or calling their children during the day. If you need to speak with your child, please telephone the main office.

The weather looks good for the weekend and into next week, so please have a great weekend.

Yours faithfully

A handwritten signature in blue ink that reads "R. Russell".

Rob Russell - Principal

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Temporary Menu

Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday
Beef burgers	Chicken burgers	Beef burgers	Chicken burgers	Hot dogs
Pizza	Pizza	Pizza	Pizza	Pizza
Panini	Panini	Panini	Panini	Panini
Sausage rolls	Sausage rolls	Sausage rolls	Sausage rolls	Sausage rolls
Doughnuts	Yum yum	Doughnuts	Yum yum	Doughnuts
Cookies	Cookies	Cookies	Cookies	Cookies

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