

25th September 2020



Dear Parents and Carers,

The weather has changed and the infection levels of the virus in Dorset are increasing so the steps we have in place at school are under constant review and may change at very short notice.

The academy has a range of contingency plans in place should a local or national lockdown occur, and our primary aim will be to keep Year 10 and 11 students in school for as long as possible. I will keep you fully informed. Please be aware that it may be necessary to make major changes to the educational provision at short notice depending upon the situation.

Good News

A group of Year 8 girls looked after a boy from Radipole Primary school who had fallen off his scooter and hurt himself until his Mum arrived. His Mum wrote to me to say what wonderful students they were. We will reward their good citizenship.

Year 7 are winning the attendance race with 97% attendance this year. Overall, our school attendance is 92% which is 5% higher than the national average of 87%. Please can I encourage parents to send students to school every day.

Year 11 subject interventions start after school next week and parents of year 11 students will receive further information about this.

Mock Exams

Students in Year 11 will receive more detailed information about the organisation of the Exams in the coming weeks. We need them to take these exams seriously as there is a chance that a similar system to that used last year may be forced upon us and we must gather as much accurate performance information as we can.

Remote Learning

We are developing our remote learning provision and have purchased new online learning packages to support learning. In addition the Oak National Academy (<https://www.thenational.academy/>) has now developed online lessons presented by leading teachers from around the country. This is a fantastic resource that I would encourage parents to look at.

Bubbles

The academy is organised into Year groups Bubbles and most of the time the students in different year groups are kept entirely separate from other Year groups. There will always be some occasions when students from different year groups cross, therefore we insist on them wearing face coverings when not in their classrooms. I would be grateful if you could help with this by checking that your child always comes to school with a suitable face covering.

We are swapping the Year 8 Bubble and the Year 10 Bubble this weekend to enable different groups to work in different areas of the school and also to reduce the time any one year group spends based in the science labs. This will start on Monday 28th September and all the students have been informed.

Wey Valley Academy

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Uniform

Thank you! The majority of students are in correct uniform even with the issues faced by the uniform shop in getting stock.

Today was a cold day and winter is coming so I would ask that students abide by the school uniform code and wear a black V neck or crew neck jumper under their blazer if cold. These do not need to be badged. Branded sweatshirts and hooded tops are not allowed and students will be asked to remove them, please simply buy a low cost warm plain black jumper.

PE

Allowing students to wear PE kit to school on PE days is working well, apart from one or two students who are still wearing hooded tops. We will continue to allow them to come into school in PE kit but I will ask students wearing hooded tops to remove them!

Jewellery

A reminder that students are not allowed to wear facial piercings in school apart from ear studs, one in each ear. If a student is seen with a nose piercing, they will have to remove it regardless of when it was pierced. Please do not plan to have your child's nose pierced in term time.

Behaviour

The vast majority of students are behaving really well and are extremely positive. However, a few are still unsettled and not yet following our new supportive systems. We now operate an effective SEN Hub that will support students with a wide range of needs, and in addition we have set up our own Alternative Provision Base to support the few students who are struggling with the demands of schooling and the curriculum. We also operate the Zone, this is where students who have had to be removed from a class because of repeated poor behaviour are able to continue with work and also speak with a trained ELSA (Emotional Literacy Support Assistant) if required. I expect high standards of behaviour and will support students in achieving these, but always appreciate parental support in achieving this.

Buses

The Bus company has asked that I write to you to inform you that their drivers will refuse to carry students who do not wear face coverings. There have been incidents of students removing these once the bus has started its journey. The drivers are not permitted to wear masks when driving which is why the students must wear theirs.

I hope you all have a restful weekend and stay safe.

Yours faithfully



Rob Russell
Principal

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