

Friday 23rd October 2020

Dear Parents and Carers,

This half term has been a challenge, but we have successfully delivered the full curriculum to all year groups including offering PE and performing arts. The children have been fantastic. It cannot be easy for them adjusting to the "new normal" of wearing face masks, regular hand washing, and keeping to their separate Year bubbles.

I would like to thank those parents and carers who have taken the time to write or call the academy to tell us when they thought we were doing a good job. I know my staff are working extremely hard in difficult circumstances and they really do appreciate your positive comments. Thank you.

Health and Safety Executive (HSE) Inspection

The HSE randomly selected 1000 schools across the country to carry out detailed inspections of their Covid19 measures and yesterday they visited Wey Valley. During the visit they compared our risk assessments and planning with what was happening around the school. They concluded that we had produced clear and detailed risk assessments and operational plans that **were better than most schools across the country** and that we were ensuring that the plans were being followed.

Online (remote) learning

We are continuing to develop our online offer and can now deliver live lessons (for most subjects) and tutor group sessions remotely. We do all of this through Microsoft Teams and the students are now very familiar with how it works.

In addition, we have invested in some of the UK's leading learning platforms to provide additional resources to support students' learning and enhance catch up support for all Year groups. These include Hegarty Maths, Tassomai (maths, English and science), Seneca Learning (all subjects) along with specific Reading Recovery programmes. All of these enable students to study independently or to do class-based work as directed by the teachers. Next half term the students will be shown how to log on and use these platforms.

If your son or daughter has to isolate due to Covid, or is off school for other reasons, they should now be able to access their learning remotely. The work provided by teachers is also supplemented by the Oak National Academy <https://www.thenational.academy/>. On this site you will find hundreds of lessons that follow the National curriculum and ensure your child does not fall behind.

Wey Valley Academy

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Year 11 Examinations

Next term Year 11 start their first set of Mock examinations which could potentially be very important in deciding their final GCSE grades. There are intervention and catch up sessions every night after school and we will be providing additional revision materials for the students after half term. I would encourage you to visit the website and under the Pupils tab, select Year 11 and you will find links to revision, careers and the new learning platforms. <http://weyvalley-academy.co.uk/pupils/year11information/>

Zones and Year Bubbles an update

Students will continue to be taught in year group bubbles after half term with **Year 10 students returning to their original base in the science rooms and Year 8 reverting to the maths rooms.** All other year groups will remain where they are.

Equipment required by students

We are not allowed to loan out equipment and students are not supposed to share equipment (Covid19 precautions). They only require the most basic of items to enable them to learn in school and would ask that you check that your son or daughter has these next half term:

Two or more black or blue ink pens

Two or more HB pencils

Four or more coloured pencils

Pencil eraser

30 cm ruler

Pencil sharpener

At least one highlighter pen

Scientific Calculator (see advice from maths department on website)

Canteen – food and drink

We are increasing the range of food on offer in the canteen as the weeks progress. When our newly appointed canteen staff start work after half term, we hope to be able to offer food to all year groups at both break and lunchtime.

Please remind your son or daughter that we can fill their drinks bottles up for them in either of the canteens.

Cycling to School – bike storage, road safety and helmets

Only Year 7 and Year 8 will use the bike sheds at the front of the school. All other Year groups will use the new bike store at the Tennis Centre end of the school.

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Unfortunately, we have received complaints about some students riding their bikes dangerously to and from school and I would ask that you speak with your children about road safety. I have noticed that many students do not wear helmets when riding to school which is extremely dangerous. I would hate for a child to be hurt riding to school because they chose not to wear a helmet. As I have said before I am seriously considering only allowing students to bring bikes onto the school site if they are wearing a helmet. Parents and Carers, please support me by insisting your child wears a helmet when riding to school.

PE Kit

Wey Valley Academy values physical exercise which is why to enable PE lessons to take place I have allowed students to wear their PE kit to school on those days. Students **must** wear school colours so Blue and Black and not multi coloured tracksuits or hooded tops! Next half term with winter approaching the expectation on PE days is that students wear a warm top and bottoms not just shorts and T shirt. I have spoken with the PE department and if students don't follow the uniform rules, I will have to review how we provide PE.

And finally

I would like to finish by thanking you, the parents and carers, for helping the academy to stay open. You have done a great job in ensuring the children come to school on a regular basis ready to learn, smartly turned out and equipped with face coverings! Our attendance is presently 92% (96% in Year 7!) which is 5% higher than the national average and well above the Academy's figures for the same time last year when we weren't in the middle of a pandemic!

I hope you are all able to have a positive half term and that you stay safe.

Yours faithfully



Rob Russell

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