

November 26th 2020



Dear Parents and Carers,

I hope you are all well and coping with the latest lockdown. At school we are continuing to operate the same systems for reducing the potential risk of Covid19 infection. I would like to thank all parents and carers for your support in sending the children into school equipped with a face covering, I am sure this has helped us keep the children in school. Please remind your children that we are a Tier 2. I have attached the latest Government guidance relating to tier 2 at the end of this letter.

Online Parents' Evening

Last night we held our first online Parents' Evening and initial responses seem to suggest it was successful. Those of you who have made contact have said that you liked being able to see all teachers without the queuing and you also liked the privacy. We will be sending out a questionnaire to Year 8 parents to gain more feedback to help us improve the process. On December 8th we will hold another online Parents' Evening this time for Year 10. The dates for the other Year groups are at the end of this letter.

Student rewards and praise

The staff have been working on developing the range of ways in which we can reward students for the excellent work and behaviour that most of them display every day. This week sees the launch of Student of the Week and Principal's Praise awards. We will also be holding celebration assemblies at the end of this term to give out prizes for students with good attendance, high achievement points and excellent effort and/or attainment in their lessons.

Attendance

Thank you! You are doing a magnificent job in ensuring your children attend school every day. The national attendance figures stand at 78% this week, the Wey Valley attendance is still at **92%!**

Improving Reading Strategy

This term we have been testing the students' reading levels and have started a series of whole school interventions to help the students improve this most valuable of skills. Students of all abilities and all ages are catered for. Those who have most difficulty with reading will receive regular daily support through phonics and direct instruction. Students at the next level will follow a national programme called Reading Plus whilst the majority of students will do their daily 'Drop Everything and Read' (DEAR) sessions with their tutors. It is also intended to introduce a book club/debating session to stretch the most able students.

Anti-Bullying Policy

This term the student council and staff have been reviewing the Anti Bullying Policy. A new policy has been written and a draft version will be shared on our website before Christmas. This will go to the Governing body for approval in the New Year.

Year 11 Mock Examinations

The Mock examinations have started this week with practical exams in Food, Art and Graphics. The main bulk of the mock examinations start next week with English Language on Monday. Please use this link to go to a copy of the examination timetable <http://weyvalley-academy.co.uk/wp-content/uploads/2020/11/November-Mocks-Timetable-Information.htm>

Wey Valley Academy

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Part of Ambitions Academies Trust

I cannot stress enough how important these mock examinations are for the students. We still do not know what the government plans to do with examinations this summer in England. They have been cancelled in Wales and Scotland, so we are being extremely cautious and doing all we can to ensure we have as much accurate information about each student's individual ability just in case we are required to submit Centre Assessed Grades as happened last year. Therefore it is essential that the students attend all the examinations and try their hardest.

National Tutoring Programme

We are working with two major organisations, The Brilliant Club and Teaching Personnel to recruit tutors to work with small groups of students (3 or 4 students in a group) to help support them with Maths, English and Science. This programme is due to start in January, initially for Year 11 but we hope to then expand it and offer additional support for year 10 students later in the year.

Uniform

A survey will be sent out soon asking for your opinions on aspects of our uniform. The aim is to reduce the cost but at the same time maintain the smart appearance of our students. We are considering things such as not requiring trousers to have a school logo, removing the blue piping from the blazers, and having a plain sweatshirt or jumper rather than a school jumper with a logo, all designed to reduce cost. We are also considering introducing a school PE hooded top. These ideas will also be discussed with staff, pupils and Ambitions Academy Trust before a final decision is taken.

Children in Need – Food Bank

Thank you to all the students who were able to donate some food to our Children in Need collection. We will be distributing the food from school between 4pm and 6pm on Thursday 3rd December.

Bikes and Scooters

Despite repeated requests a small number of students continue to ride their bikes through the school driveways in the morning and at the end of the day. This is placing them at considerable risk due to the number of cars using the driveways at those times. We will be speaking with students about this but if they fail to comply, we will write to their parents and inform them that the permission to bring a bicycle onto school grounds will be withdrawn.

Helmets and lights – as parents and carers please can you check that you children are wearing helmets when riding their bikes and during these dark winter months, they have lights on their bikes. I will be writing to parents and carers of students who do not wear helmets to ask them to confirm that they understand the considerable risk to their children.

Electric Scooters – cannot be ridden to school

It's illegal to use electric scooters on public roads, on pavements, in cycle lanes and in pedestrian-only areas. The reason for this is that electric scooters are currently classed as 'powered transporters' by the government and fall under the same laws and regulations that apply to all motor vehicles. This makes their use on pavements, in cycle lanes and in pedestrian-only areas illegal straightaway and use on public roads would only be legal if electric scooters could meet the same requirements as motor vehicles (e.g. in terms of insurance, tax, license, registration), which they can't.

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At this time and until the law changes (trials are starting in some cities across the UK and the law is up for review) the Wey Valley Academy cannot allow students to ride electric scooters to school as to do so would mean we sanction students breaking the law.

Equipped for School

Please ensure your son or daughter has the necessary equipment for school:

- 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)

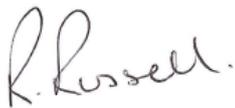
Key Dates

December INSET Day	Friday 4 th December	
The last day of term	Friday 18 th December	School closes at 12 noon
Start of Spring Term	Tuesday 5 th January	

Parents' Evenings

Year 10	Tuesday December 8 th , 2020 and Thursday 29 th April 2021
Year 11	Thursday January 14 th , 2021 and Thursday 25 th March 2021
Year 9	Thursday January 28 th , 2021
Year 7	Thursday February 25 th , 2021
Year 9 GCSE Options Information Evening	Wednesday 10 th February 2021

Yours faithfully



Rob Russell
Principal

Please see Government Tier 2 advice on next page.

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Tier 2: High alert

This is for areas with a higher or rapidly rising level of infections, where some additional restrictions need to be in place.

- you must not socialise with anyone you do not live with or who is not in your support bubble in any indoor setting, whether at home or in a public place
- you must not socialise in a group of more than 6 people outside, including in a garden or a public space – this is called the 'rule of 6'
- businesses and venues can continue to operate, in a COVID-Secure manner, other than those which remain closed by law, such as nightclubs
- pubs and bars must close, unless operating as restaurants. Hospitality venues can only serve alcohol with substantial meals
- hospitality businesses selling food or drink for consumption on their premises are required to:
 - provide table service only, in premises which sell alcohol
 - close between 11pm and 5am (hospitality venues in airports, ports, transport services and motorway service areas are exempt)
 - stop taking orders after 10pm
- hospitality businesses and venues selling food and drink for consumption off the premises can continue to do so after 10pm as long as this is through delivery service, click-and-collect or drive-through
- early closure (11pm) applies to casinos, cinemas, theatres, museums, bowling alleys, amusement arcades, funfairs, theme parks, adventure parks and activities, and bingo halls. Cinemas, theatres and concert halls can stay open beyond 11pm in order to conclude performances that start before 10pm
- public attendance at outdoor and indoor events (performances and shows) is permitted, limited to whichever is lower: 50% capacity, or either 2,000 people outdoors or 1,000 people indoors
- public attendance at spectator sport and business events can resume inside and outside, subject to social contact rules and limited to whichever is lower: 50% capacity, or either 2,000 people outdoors or 1,000 people indoors
- places of worship remain open but you must not socialise with people from outside of your household or support bubble while you are indoors there, unless a legal exemption applies
- weddings and funerals can go ahead with restrictions on numbers of attendees – 15 people can attend wedding ceremonies and receptions, 30 people can attend funeral ceremonies, and 15 people can attend linked commemorative events such as wakes or stonesettings.
- organised outdoor sport, and physical activity and exercise classes can continue
- organised indoor sport, physical activity and exercise classes will only be permitted if it is possible for people to avoid mixing with people they do not live with (or share a support bubble with). There are exceptions for indoor disability sport, sport for educational purposes and supervised sport and physical activity for under-18s, which can take place with larger groups mixing
- you can continue to travel to venues or amenities which are open, but should aim to reduce the number of journeys you make where possible
- if you live in a tier 2 area, you must continue to follow tier 2 rules when you travel to a tier 1 area. Avoid travel to or overnight stays in tier 3 areas other than where necessary, such as for work, education, youth services, to receive medical treatment, or because of caring responsibilities. You can travel through a tier 3 area as a part of a longer journey
- for international travel see the Foreign, Commonwealth and Development Office travel advice for your destination and the travel corridors list

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