

May 7th 2021

Dear Parents and Carers,

Changes to Covid19 restrictions in school

Following the Government announcement this week and further guidance provided by the Department for Education (DfE) we are planning to make gradual changes to the Covid19 systems and procedures we have in place at the academy.

From Monday May 17th:

- **Masks will still be required to be worn by staff and students inside the school building in communal areas** where students from different bubbles may come into contact. As infection rates are very low in Dorset and we are maintaining the Bubble and Zone systems we can relax the wearing of masks in classrooms. However, we continue to watch the scientific data very carefully as we have some concerns regarding the possible spread of the new 'variant of concern' from India. We will restore mask wearing in throughout the school if the evidence suggests this is required.
- The Year group teaching Bubbles and Zones will remain in place for now
- Regular hand washing will still be encouraged.
- Students can continue to wear school PE kit on PE days – if they do not have official PE kit they must come to school in school uniform and change for the lesson. Students arriving to school in branded sports clothing or non-school colours (grey is not the school colour!) will be sent home to change into uniform.

From Monday June 7th:

- If DfE advice allows, we are planning to remove the Bubbles and Zone restrictions so that students will be able to be taught in specialist rooms across the academy. However, at the time of writing this the government guidance is for Bubbles to remain.
- Students and staff would continue to wear masks in communal spaces
- Year group bubble assemblies in the hall will resume (these have been online this year)
- School Trips will resume (Geography and Photography trips already planned!)
- Sporting competitions will resume

These changes are dependent upon the continued decline in the infection rate and our not having any cases of Covid19 within the academy. This means that you must still follow the previous guidance and keep children at home and isolated should they display any of the Covid19 symptoms and get them tested. We do not want to have to go back into Bubbles and wearing masks once we have come out of these restrictions!

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

Lateral Flow Tests

The children must continue to use the Lateral Flow tests every Sunday and Wednesday evening and results reported. If you have a positive test this will need to be followed up by a PCR test at an official test centre and you must isolate until the result of that is known.

School Food Vouchers

We will be providing vouchers during the half term holiday for students eligible for free school meals. In addition, we have a limited number of vouchers available for families who have had a recent change in circumstances and are finding it difficult at this time. This could be through losing a job or being on reduced furlough. Please contact your child's Head of Year to discuss this and any other support we can offer.

Year 11 Final Arrangements

Mrs Harmey has written to all parents and carers of Year 11 students to explain the arrangements for the end of year celebrations and the Prom. I need to remind you that Year 11 officially leave school on June 25th, however, just as students are not normally required in school except for examinations after the summer half term we are operating a similar system this year and providing access to online support.

Students not in school have been provided with a wide range of online support materials (on TEAMS and links from our website) including Careers advice and guidance and Wellbeing activities. We will also be able to provide additional careers interviews in school after half term.

Year 11 **must** be available to attend school between June 7th and June 16th if required to complete any missed or incomplete GCSE or BTEC assessments.

We will contact students individually to advise when they will be required to be in school.

We are also talking with post 16 providers to see if we can arrange any additional taster days for students after half term.

Timings of the School Day from September 2021

In an attempt to alleviate some of the pressure experienced at the start and the end of the school day we have spoken with the other schools on our site and agreed that from September 1st 2021 the timings of the school day will be as follows:

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

Students on site by 8:30am
First Lesson starts at 8:40am
End of School Day at 3:15pm

Sustrans "Dr Bike" is back this time for Year 7 - Free checks and free repairs!

All day on Thursday 20th May we have bike mechanics from Sustrans in school offering free bike maintenance checks and free repairs. If your child's bike needs checking over or brakes or gears fixed please get them to bring it in and leave it in the year 7 cycle racks at the front of the school.

Duke of Edinburgh Award Scheme

We have had over 60 students complete the DoE award during this most difficult of years. Congratulations to them all!

Last week as part of their community work, DoE students planted over 200 trees in 100 mins for a local charity the Horse Course Centre Littlemead.

Key Dates – Reminders

Saturday 29th May Start of half term
Sunday 6th June End of Half Term
June and July Year 7, 8, 9 and 10 end of Year assessments
Friday 2nd July INSET day
Friday 23rd July End of term
Monday 6th Sept Start of new term

The Big Ask

We will be engaging as a school with Rachel de Souza, the Children's Commissioner for England's Big Ask survey that aims to gather children's views and opinions of the past year, how they are feeling and what they want in life. This will feed into Government planning for the future.

It is good news that the challenges we have faced this year are finally coming to an end. I hope we never have to experience anything like this again. The sooner we can return safely to normality the better. I will keep you informed of any developments.

Wishing you a good weekend.

Yours faithfully



Rob Russell - Principal

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