

22nd July 2021

Dear Parents and Carers,

The summer holidays are almost here, after what has been a very difficult year. I would like to thank you for the support you have given the school and your children.

Following the latest guidance from the Government, when students return in September, they will no longer be required to be taught in Bubbles and the students will not be required to wear face coverings. Of course, all that could change!

Whatever happens we will continue to reinforce hand hygiene, encouraging students to wash their hands regularly and the "catch it, bin it, kill it" approach to respiratory hygiene.

Last week you received a letter updating you on the changes to contact tracing explaining that from August 16th children under 18 who are 'close contacts' will not have to self-isolate, but will be asked to take a PCR test immediately and self-isolate only if positive.

Lateral Flow Testing on site in September prior to students returning

The government guidance requires the school to test students, twice on site, on their return to school in September. We will send a separate letter and post information on our website to explain how this will work. After they have had their two on site tests, the process will revert to students testing at home on Sunday and Wednesday evenings. The government have not told us when this will end. I thank you in advance for your support with this matter. Please remember these tests are not mandatory but the more people who engage with these asymptomatic tests the more we can protect the vulnerable members of our school community.

The onsite tests will be the Nasal swab only tests (unless a child cannot do a nasal swab).

Contingency plan

In case the UK reopening does not progress as planned and we have further restrictions placed upon us in September, we have developed a contingency plan. We have everything in place to revert to online TEAMS lessons delivered by teachers. We will also have IT equipment available for loan to ensure students can access the work.

The vulnerable students will be invited to come into school as in previous lockdowns. However, I hope that we will not have to put this contingency plan into operation.

Staffing Changes at Wey Valley

This is the traditional time of year for teachers to leave to start a new phase of their career and we have eight staff who are leaving us. However, due to the large numbers of children joining us in September (we are now oversubscribed in Yr 7) we have 19 new staff joining the school to strengthen our team and ensure that the quality of education we provide continues to improve.

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

Staff leaving

Mandy Marks	(English)
Chris Russell	(Science)
Richard Emo	(MfL)
John Bruchez	(Science)
Vicki Richards	(Maths)
Louise Bown	(Philosophy and Ethics / HoY 8)
Rebecca Burt	(Humanities)
Suzanne Young	(MfL)

New staff joining

Sian Lydford	(Curriculum Area Leader (CAL) Vocational Learning)
Ben McCutcheon	(CAL Science)
James Sparks	(Science)
Victoria Thomas	(Science)
Connar Porter	(Science)
Nathan Petchey	(CAL Design and Technology)
Ben Hackland	(Design & Technology)
Matt Bell	(Head of Year 8 & Humanities)
Rebecca Martin	(2 nd in English)
Lisa Hirst	(English)
Callum Gray	(Maths)
Sam Reiffer	(Maths)
Natalie Gray	(Philosophy and Ethics)
Simon Harrison	(Humanities)
Alana Sanders	(Art)
Nathalie Shilliday	(CAL MfL from January 2022)
Marta Gonzalez Garcia	(MfL)
Natasha Lear	(MfL – return from maternity leave)
Oliver Barnes	(PE)

School Attendance

Research has shown that on average students with higher attendance attain higher grades in their final exams. In September, we will be increasing the rewards we offer students for good attendance and punctuality. We will be looking for 97% attendance (even that equates to an entire week off school in a year!) as an absolute minimum level before we start to put in place support measures. Dorset Council has informed the school that from September they will restart their full attendance process, which can result in fines being issued to parents of students with poor attendance.

Building and Site Improvements

The work on replacing the school roof is progressing well and should be completed before September. A new CCTV system is being installed this summer along with additional gates to improve site security. In December, we are planning to start the total redecoration and equipping of the MfL and English areas. This summer 15 classrooms will be fitted with new state of the art touch screen display panels, replacing outdated whiteboards and projectors and all of the school's computer equipment is being renewed!

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@weyvalley-academy.co.uk

T 01305 817000

Dorchester Road, Weymouth, Dorset. DT3 5AN

End of Year Reports

The students have recently completed their end of year assessments in all subjects and the end of year reports will be sent out this week.

School Uniform for September

We have simplified the uniform to reduce cost and will continue to review this going forward. We offer grants to support the purchase of uniform if required. Please contact the Head of Year to confirm your eligibility.

On our return in September 2021, all pupils will be required to wear full school uniform every day. PE kits will no longer be worn during the school day and will only be worn during PE lessons, for which pupils will need to change as normal.

Full details of our uniform policy is available on our website at:

<https://weyvalley-academy.co.uk/parents/uniform/>

We are reverting to full uniform since we need to move back to a place of normality and the right time to do this is at the start of the new year. I hope that pupils have appreciated the adjustment we have made in this regard over the last few months. I would like to remind everyone that: -

- Hoodies must not be worn and will be confiscated
- False nails are not permitted and must be removed
- Excess make-up is not permitted and must be removed
- Jewellery and earrings must be discrete and necklaces are not permitted
- Skin-tight leggings or trousers are not permitted
- Footwear must be all leather and all black with no discernible sports branding
- Ties and blazers must be worn every day
- In colder weather pupils can wear a plain black v neck jumper OR the plain black PE sweatshirt (not the hoodie) under their blazer

Mobile Phones

In September, we will also continue with the mobile phone policy currently in place. They are a banned item according to our behaviour policy. They are not allowed on site during the day and will be confiscated on sight, even if pupils are not directly using them. If phones are confiscated three times, we will inform parents that upon any further confiscations phones will be returned only to parents.

If pupils refuse to hand over phones, please be aware that they will receive behaviour sanctions, up to and including exclusion from school. Pupils have had the details above shared with them during assemblies recently. I would be very grateful for you supporting this at home.

Timings of the School Day

A reminder that as from September the school day will begin at 8:30am with a tutor period and will end at 3:15pm

Wey Valley Academy

Sian Thomas, BEd (Hons), CEO - AAT

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

Rob Russell, BEd (Hons), Principal

www.weyvalley-academy.co.uk

E office@weyvalley-academy.co.uk

T 01305 817000

Dorchester Road, Weymouth, Dorset. DT3 5AN

Key Dates – Reminders

Friday 23 rd July	School finishes for summer holiday at 12:30
Thursday 2 nd Sept	Year 7 onsite Lateral Flow testing Day
Friday 3 rd Sept	Year 9 and 11 onsite Lateral Flow testing Day
Monday 6 th Sept	Year 8 and 10 onsite Lateral Flow testing Day
Monday 6 th September	Start of Autumn term
Thursday 16 th Sept	Year 11 Information Evening
Thursday 30 Sept	Year 7 Tutor Evening
Tuesday 5 th Oct	Year 6 Open Evening
Thursday 14 th Oct	Year 11 Parents' Evening
Saturday 23 rd Oct	Half Term starts

I remain optimistic that on return in September we will be able to run the school without any restrictions, which will mean we can do so much more than this year such as holding regular sporting fixtures, performing arts events and sending the students out on trips and visits as well as being able to have you the parents back into school celebrating the success of your children with us.

Do not forget we finish at **12.30pm** tomorrow and children who have requested their free school meal as a packed lunch can collect it from the main canteen at 12.30pm.

I hope you all have a safe and enjoyable summer and we look forward to seeing all the students back in September.

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