

Transition Bulletin #1



Message from the Assistant Principal

Welcome to all of our newest members of Oasis Academy Don Valley. We are very excited that you will be starting at OADV in September and hope that you are too.

I am delighted to be both a teacher and a leader at the Academy and I know that you have made a great choice to join us. We are incredibly proud of our supportive culture and as our Academy continues to grow we have lots of exciting opportunities to offer you during your secondary school education.

This year is rather extraordinary but here at Oasis Academy Don Valley we still want to offer you the very best transition process so you are confident about starting in September. I hope this Bulletin reassures you that you will get an opportunity to meet staff and students; get to know the building and help us learn a little about you as well.

The time between now and September might be a little different but one thing that hasn't changed is our commitment to giving you and your family the right support at this really important part of your education.

Please read and enjoy your first family bulletin which has important information about your next steps.

Mrs Gormal

Assistant Principal Secondary



Our mission is to provide an exceptional education at the heart of our community.

Key People



Here are some of the staff you will hear about, meet and get to know over the coming weeks and months.



Mr Pape - Principal

Role in the Academy: I have the privilege of being principal across our whole Academy from our Nursery to Year 9 next year. Having been here from the opening day in September 2015, I have been proud to see the Academy go from strength to strength through the commitment of our staff and young people

Favourite Quote: Education is the most powerful weapon which we can use to change the world. *Nelson Mandela*

Interesting Fact: I have always been a Liverpool FC football fan and cannot believe that the current situation has stopped them becoming premier champions. The last time Liverpool won the First Division was in the summer of 1990 the year I started Y7.



Mrs Michels – Deputy Principal

Role in the Academy: I am part of the Academy leadership team, here to ensure that all of our OADV students receive the best possible education. I lead the primary phase, however work hard to promote the 'All-through' Academy, therefore you will see me in lessons, on duty and leading whole Academy events.

Favourite Quote: All our dreams can come true, if we have the courage to pursue them. *Walt Disney*

Interesting Fact: I once had afternoon tea at 10 Downing Street and met the Prime Minister!



Mrs Gormal – Assistant Principal

Role in the Academy: I support in leading the academy on a daily basis to ensure you have the best possible education. You will see me on duty, in assemblies and in your lessons. I also teach History and Ethics.

Favourite Quote: I raise up my voice—not so that I can shout, but so that those without a voice can be heard. ... We cannot all succeed when half of us are held back. *Malala Yousafzai*

Interesting Fact: I always wanted to be a teacher as I come from a family of them. My mum, dad, sister, aunt and uncle are all teachers and so is my husband!

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Miss Dalton – Director of Inclusion

Role in the Academy: I work across the Academy to support students and their families to ensure their learning, safeguarding and wellbeing needs are met. You can find my office near the Heart Space and I'll often be seen on the corridors and on duty.

Favourite Quote: My mission in life is not to merely survive, but to thrive and to do so with some passion, some compassion, some humour and some style. *Maya Angelou*

Interesting Fact: I used to be an Irish Dancer when I was younger and recently found out that I used to dance alongside Mrs Gormal, although we didn't know it at the time!



Mr Mills – Head of KS3

Role in the Academy: My role is to look after the behaviour and success of all students in Y7-9 and ensure you have every opportunity to succeed and reach your maximum potential while here at OADV. I am here to make sure you feel safe and guide you through to your GCSEs.

Favourite Quote:

A person who never made a mistake never tried anything new.
Albert Einstein

Interesting Fact:

I served in the British Army (Parachute Regiment) for 7 years.
I don't like fish or seafood

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Getting to know you

Over the next few months, we will be setting a series of fun challenges for you to complete. These offer an opportunity to show off your skills and individuality by introducing yourself in a creative way!

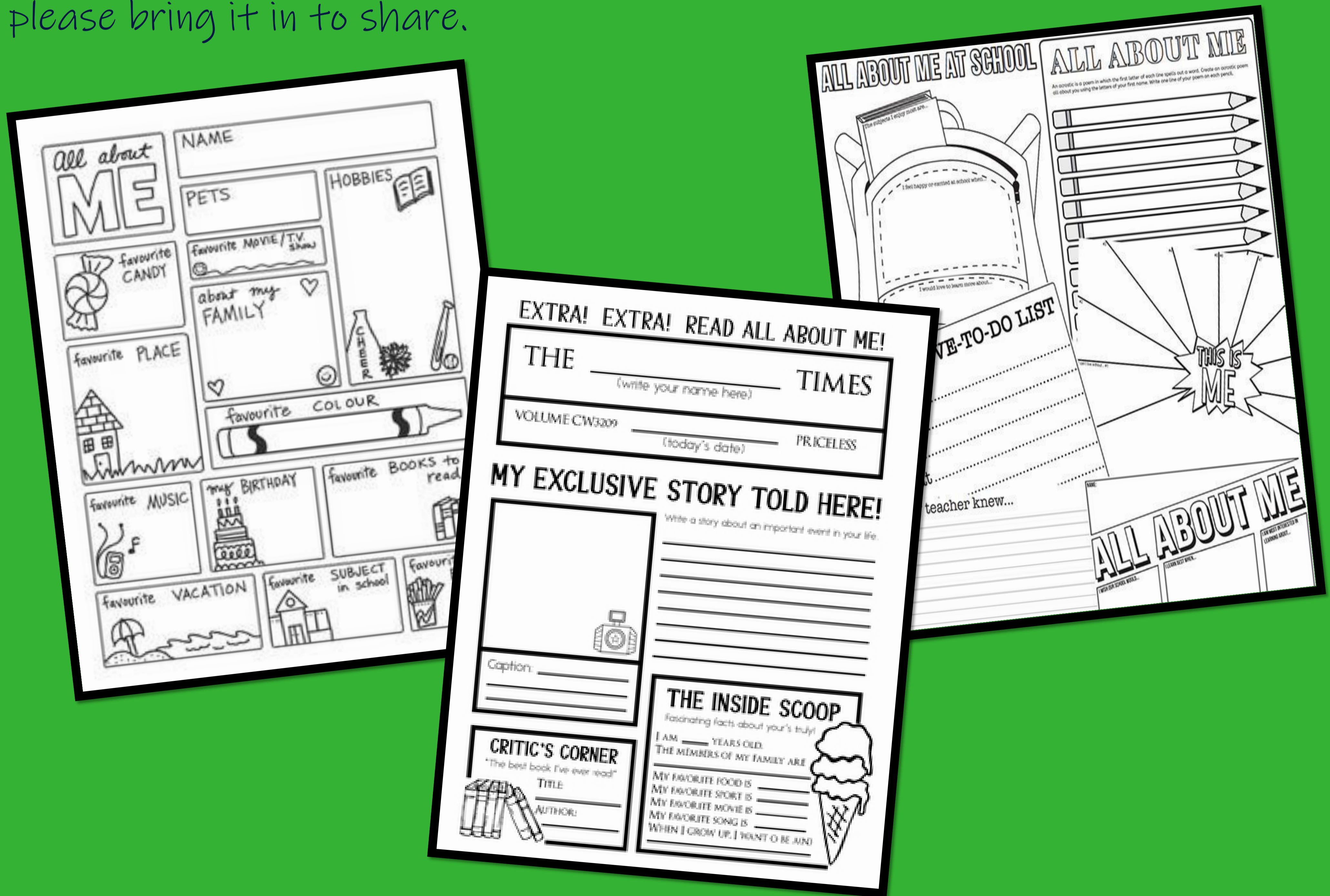


First Challenge

Your first challenge allows you to be as creative and as imaginative as you want.

The task is to teach us a little about you. We want to learn two or three things about you and you can do this in any way you wish.

Some examples are; a picture, painting, slide show, video, song, sculpture, dance or news report. If you do not do this on a computer, you can take a picture or video. When we are back at the academy, please bring it in to share.



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Please send your challenge by **Friday 5th June 2020** by email info@oasisdonvalley.org or tweet [@oasisdonvalley](https://twitter.com/oasisdonvalley)



We know you will have lots of questions, especially in this unprecedented time, so we have tried to answer some of the most commonly asked ones below.

What happens if the academy remains closed until summer? If the academy remains closed, you will still get all the information you need via the internet or post.

How will I meet my advisory teacher if the academy is closed until the summer break?

In the next few weeks we will hold a meet the tutor event. If the academy remains closed, this will be organised as an online event where you will be introduced to your advisory teacher as well as other key members of staff.

What is an advisory teacher?

An advisory teacher is a member of staff whose job it is to take care of their advisory group. You will be in an advisory group with around 24 students and you will have a Year 7 advisory teacher to make sure you are ready to succeed in the academy. They are the person your parent contacts if they need any information or help.

How long is the academy day?

The School day begins at 8.27am but most people arrive around 8.00am to get some breakfast; the day ends at 3.15pm with extra-curricular activities until 4:15pm.

Am I allowed my mobile phone?

We understand that students may have their phones with them for the journey to and from the Academy but they are to be switched off and handed in to student services. They must never be used on the school site.

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What will my first day be like at Oasis Academy Don Valley?

On your first day, you will be met as you arrive and will immediately be in the care of teachers. They will make sure you know where you are going. Following on from that you will have assembly, meet key members of staff and spend time getting to know your new advisory group and your advisory teacher. We will help you understand how everything works at OADV.

Are there extra-curricular clubs?

Over the first few weeks of secondary school, you will be told about our extra-curricular opportunities and how to sign up to these. Some examples are: STEM club, Lego club, Art club and Sports clubs.

When and what can I eat?

You can get food and drink three times throughout the day:

- Before School: Breakfast (toast and squash)
- Break: Snacks (bagels, waffles, hash browns, squash, juice)
- Lunch: A rotating menu of hot food including options for anyone with dietary requirements

What if I forget something?

Although our expectations are very high, we do know that this is a big step. For the first few weeks, our teachers will understand that it takes time to adjust. If you do forget something important, please talk to staff and we can often help.

If you have any other questions please get in touch via email info@donvalley.org and also follow us on Twitter [@oasisdonvalley](https://twitter.com/oasisdonvalley) for more updates and information.

