



17 September 2021

Dear Parent/Carer

## September Update

As you can imagine, all staff have been working hard to ensure that the start of the new academic year is as successful as possible, and we have all been excited to welcome the Oasis Academy Don Valley family back to the Academy. With an especially warm welcome to those families in year 7 and reception joining for the first time.

Thank you to everyone for their ongoing support of our new start and end of the day arrangements, which we hope are making things easier. One thing we have noticed is that the car park next to the Academy is becoming very busy. Please can I ask anyone using this takes care and to also speak to your children please about keeping safe in and around this area.

As we settle into the new year it is clear that we will be working in a different way to last year, however we must also always remain safe below are our current ways of working. in line with government guidance that can be found at. <https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/actions-for-schoolsduring-the-coronavirus-outbreak>

- "Bubbles" are no longer in place, and we will revert to mixing classes and year groups as appropriate, for example at break and lunch time.
- We will be resuming many of our "traditional" Academy events and activities, such as assemblies and look forward to being able to welcome families back into the Academy for many of these.
- We will reinstate family dining within both our primary and secondary phases of the Academy, where students will eat with other students for across the Academy in family groups.
- Students will no longer be required to self-isolate if they have been in contact with someone who has tested positive for COVID-19. Contact tracing will be taken over by NHS test and trace, If students are identified as a close contact, they will be asked to go for a PCR test which replaces the requirement to isolate.
- Students will no longer be expected to wear a face covering, however if this were something they would like to continue to wear and have discussed this with yourself we will support this decision as an Academy, as we want all of our students to feel comfortable on their return.

### Elements that remain unchanged

- It is still important that if a student displays symptoms of COVID-19 that they do not attend the Academy, take a PCR test, and isolate until the results are confirmed.
- We also request that all our students in Year 7 upwards continue to test twice a week using LFD tests provided by the Academy. These should be used on Tuesday and Friday before the start of the Academy Day. You only need to inform the academy of the outcome of the test if it is a positive result.

Principal - Mr James Pape

Leeds Road, Sheffield, S9 3TY

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- Our vigilance towards good hygiene and good ventilation in all learning spaces will continue to further mitigate the spread of COVID-19.
- If your child tests positive for COVID-19, they will still need to isolate for the recommended period (The NHS will advise).
- A positive LFD result will also continue to lead to self-isolation whilst an individual is awaiting a confirmatory PCR test.

It is worth remembering that The Royal College of Paediatrics and Child Health have made it clear that the overwhelming majority of children and young people still have no symptoms or will only suffer a very mild form of the illness. I would like to reassure you that we continue to treat COVID-19 as serious and as such, our rigorous approach to our ongoing hygiene measures will continue.

## Areas of focus

### Attendance

As we settle back into the Academy it is key that we rebuild the habits of good attendance to ensure students can benefit from the learning that happens in our classrooms. To support us with this please ensure that wherever possible holidays and appointments such as doctors or dentists are booked outside of the Academy day or in the holiday periods.

It is also very important to ensure that students are punctual to the Academy at the start of the day again to avoid losing learning time.

### Uniform

We will continue to set the highest of expectations in terms of how our students present at the Academy in their Academy uniform and PE kit. Your continued support with this important aspect of school life is very much appreciated.

Once again, I would like to thank you for your ongoing support as we look forward to a successful year here at Oasis Academy Don Valley.

Your sincerely

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads 'J. Pape'.

James Pape, Principal

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