



ORMISTON DENES ACADEMY

28th August 2020

Dear Parent/Carer

I hope you all had an excellent summer holiday and are looking forward to the start of a new term. I have to say that it is with great excitement I look forward to students coming into school and us getting back to as close to normal as we possibly can. It is very much about supporting our youngsters and crucially all of us working hard so that we can catch up on the amount of work that has been missed. That's why attendance is going to be crucial and from my perspective, high quality teaching and learning in every single lesson.

We have 2 staff training days Tuesday 1st September and Wednesday 2nd September. Year 7 students return on Thursday 3rd September. Year 11 students return on Friday 4th September (along with Year 7s), and all students will be back in school on Monday 7th September.

Years 7, 8 and 10 will enter the school grounds via the driveway entrance gates. Years 9 and 11 will enter the school grounds via the pedestrian gate. This is to ensure the swiftest route to their year group bubble areas within the school grounds. Remember the back gate via the field will be locked. Staff will be present in the mornings to welcome all students and to direct them to their year group bubbles. Entrances, along with bubble areas will all be colour coded. We have put a return to school storyboard on our website so you can see how the layout will be with this colour coding <http://www.ormistonden.es.co.uk/pastoral/sen/>

For your information;

- Year 7 students will follow red signs and be based in the maths area.
- Year 8 students will follow purple signs and be based in the MFL area.
- Year 9 students will follow yellow signs and be based upstairs in the humanities area.
- Year 10 students will follow green signs and be based downstairs in English and the main corridor classroom area.
- Year 11 students will follow blue signs and be based upstairs in the English area.

To ensure an orderly start to the day and keep students as safe as we possibly can, students are not allowed into the school building until 8.30am. I realise this creates inconvenience, however given the structure of year group bubbles and having to ensure supervision for students, we cannot have a situation where the bubbles are broken and students are in the building unsupervised. The key principle here is to minimise COVID, again for the safety not only of everyone in school but the local community as well. I hope you'll understand the need for this approach.

Parents of SEN students will receive a separate communication shortly inviting them and their child into school so they can chat with their new year head and pastoral manager, and also so they can gain a feel for their bubble zone and get an understanding of how the school will be run in September.

In an update to my previous email, we are planning the following;

For PE lessons, students will come into school in their PE kit with a school blazer over it. They are not allowed to wear hoody's or any other form of outer garment over their PE kit. We are looking to have PE mostly outdoors. Equipment will be sanitised at the end of each lesson following COVID guidelines.

We have revised our plans regarding ICT and drama, and students will be able to take part in practical lessons following COVID guidelines.

Following discussions with Caterlink who provide our food, I can confirm that we are able to provide a limited cold food menu for all students from Thursday. Free school meal students will be covered and for all others, we are still in discussions as to how this will be managed, but as a reminder may I point you towards the payment portal used by the academy <https://www.parentmail.co.uk/support/parent-support/> We cannot accept any cash payments into the academy. Please be assured we are continuing to work hard to get a normal food service back as soon as possible. As a result of this, we are not able to provide a breakfast club.

I reiterate what I said in an earlier email message that students will need to bring in their own water and drinks, as at present water fountains are not permitted.

With regards to school uniform we will be strictly enforcing compliance at all times. It is important that our students get back into ways of working and uniform is an important aspect of our school values and belonging to our school community. During each morning tutor time, staff will be checking this compliance; this also includes making sure students have food/water and are equipped for the day. We cannot loan any part of uniform, PE kit nor provide food, so if your child is found to be missing an item you will be called to come up to the school to drop the item off. Given that the importance of uniform has been highlighted in previous emails and that there has been a summer holiday for students to be prepared, I would hope the need for these calls is minimal.

We do acknowledge however, there has been an issue with our uniform supplier Screens and Year 7 PE tops, so on their PE days, Year 7 students are advised to wear their PE kit from their primary school.

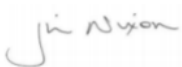
There has been a significant amount of building work taking place over the summer holidays, much of which may not be noticed by students but it is to improve the infrastructure of the school. As is always the case, the timeline has been tight and work is taking place throughout this weekend and including the Bank Holiday, so the school is ready for opening next week.

Following the latest update by the Government we have received guidance from Ormiston Academies Trust (attached) regarding the wearing of face masks. In summary it has been decided that students may wear them voluntarily, particularly given that each individual's personal circumstances will be radically different both at home and within their own needs.

It has always been my view to look forward and look for opportunities and see the positive in everything that comes our way. As I said at the start, I am looking forward to school being back to how it should be with a vibrant population of students and teaching and learning taking place in a caring environment. I also see this as a tremendous opportunity to embed high standards and set our stall out from day one. We have a lot of catching up to do and it starts on Thursday.

I hope you all have a fantastic bank holiday weekend and we look forward to seeing our students from next week.

Yours faithfully



Mr Nixon
Principal