

26th June 2020

Dear Parents and Carers,

The purpose of this letter is to provide an update of the provision being offered for Year 10 students at Outwood Academy Ripon, from the week commencing 29th June, until the end of the academic year.

Firstly, can I thank you, once again, for the support that you have provided for your child in allowing them to access remote learning through Google Classroom over the past three months. This format of learning will continue to be an important method of support for your child's education throughout the remainder of their time at school. I also appreciate the feedback that you have provided through the completion of the "Google Form" questionnaire that you received on the 19th June. This information aligned with a number of additional factors has been important in reviewing the capability of the Academy to progress and offer further support and provision to more students.

The Academy plan for Year 10 reintegration has prioritised safety in welcoming students back into the building. In an earlier correspondence, I informed you that your child would receive weekly academic tutor sessions, and that these would be one hour thirty minutes in duration. I also identified that those sessions would be consistent for the remainder of the term, or until a change in Government guidance.

We are now in a position where we can increase this stepped approach to allow students additional time with staff in the Academy. The purpose of the initial sessions in Week one of the academic tutoring provision was to provide a mix of pastoral support and academic study. This was important to ensure that the sessions allowed appropriate flexibility to the tutors, so that targeted support could be given to each pupil. Tutor sessions in the second week have been composed of mostly academic content and given the small number of students in each tutor group, the quality of these sessions has been excellent. It has been encouraging this week to witness academic tutors utilising other members of staff's specialist subject knowledge by "streaming" them into the classroom to deliver specific content. It is the expectation, over the next week, that all academic tutor sessions benefit from another specialist working with their tutees using this format. The increase of duration of the tutor session to two hours will provide more opportunity for other specialisms to be explored.

Then from the week commencing the 6th July, students will be invited to attend two Academic Tutor sessions a week - each session at the extended duration of two hours. These sessions will occur with the same tutor, but with an increased maximum group size of six students per session. The timings of these sessions will be shared with students in their tutor sessions next week. However, to minimise any disruption caused to the transport arrangements that you may have already organised, one of these sessions will take place during your child's current timetabled tutor session. If you have any concerns regarding the timings of the

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Registered office address: Potovens Lane, Outwood, Wakefield, West Yorkshire WF1 2PF.

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A list of Directors' names is open to inspection at our registered office.

second tutor session, or any further feedback, then please email enquiries@ripon.outwood.com.

Within the responses to the “Google Form” questionnaire that you completed, some of you enquired about the feasibility of “live lessons” through Google Meet. It is understandable that you have desires for your child’s educational experience to be broadened beyond access and completion of work through Google Classroom, excellent though it is. Importantly, the Academy will be trialling “live lessons” in Google Meet starting from the week commencing 29th June. It is important to identify that this element of educational practice will focus firstly on those year groups who are currently unable to attend the Academy in person.

With the uncertain and unpredictable future educational landscape, “live lessons” via Google Meet may still be utilised for Year 10, in preparing them for their GCSE exams in the next academic year.

Yours Faithfully,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'W Pratt', with a long horizontal flourish extending to the right.

Mr W Pratt
Principal

