

3<sup>rd</sup> September 2020

Dear Parents and Carers,

We are very much looking forward to welcoming students back into the academy from Wednesday 9<sup>th</sup> September. It has been a long time for students to have been away from the academy building, their peers, teachers and support staff. We hope that they are eager to return and benefit from the huge advantages of classroom teaching and face to face pastoral support. A full risk assessment has remained accessible on the front page of the academy website throughout the summer break. This adheres to government guidance and has been updated to include the recent changes in guidance of face coverings. It has provided a framework to ensure students can learn in an environment that prioritises their safety but still provides an opportunity for them to explore a wide range of subjects and interests.

The government recently altered the guidance for the use of face coverings in schools and academies. They have “not recommended face coverings are necessary in education settings” but have provided the “schools and colleges with the discretion to require face coverings in communal areas where social distancing cannot be safely managed”.

Consequently, to prioritise student and staff safety, we have provided a summary of the key points for students, parents and carers

- We **highly recommend** that these coverings are worn during movement between lessons and social times.
- Students will receive instruction of how to safely put on and remove their face covering during the first day back within their tutor session.
- We are aware that some students will be exempt from wearing a face covering due to a physical or mental illness. Please provide a note for your child if you feel that we may not be aware of this.
- It is expected that students bring their own face covering with them to the academy and the face covering is a plain colour without slogans, images or patterns.
- It is an expectation that all students age 11 and over wear a face covering on home to school and public transport.
- We **DO NOT** expect that face coverings will be worn in classrooms which already have appropriate safety measures in place to mitigate risk.

Please remember that there was a huge amount of information about returning to the academy provided within the letter sent prior to the summer holidays. A bespoke copy of this letter was sent with specific year group information to all students, parents and carers however if you require further reference of the document a generic copy is available in the “letters” section on the front page of the

website. This provides reminders of start times, additional safety measures, uniform and equipment expectations. If you have any further questions then please email [enquiries@ripon.outwood.com](mailto:enquiries@ripon.outwood.com).

I would like to remind all students, parents and carers that from Wednesday 9<sup>th</sup> September we have reopened the entry gate at Bishopton Lane to allow students to enter the academy site in smaller and less condensed groups. Importantly this gate will close at 8.45am and therefore it is essential that students are punctual through this entrance. Any students arriving after 8.45am will be required to enter through the student entrance on Clotherholme Road. It is imperative that students are punctual in arriving to the academy after 8.15am but before 8.40am, they are expected in their tutor room before 8.45am. During the summer holidays there have been 4 additional sanitisation stations attached to the exterior of the building that allows students to wash their hands prior to entering site and it is expected that all students will do so to ensure the safety of all those who enter the building. Once students have utilised these stations to sanitise their hands they must transition immediately to their tutor room and must not congregate in groups within or outside of the academy building. This applies to the end of the academy day when students will be supervised by duty staff to ensure that they move safely and efficiently to depart from the academy site.

We are looking forward to welcoming year 7 and 8 students next Wednesday and all other remaining students from Thursday. Staff will be present at duty points at the three entrance gates from 8.15am to reassure students of any concerns they may have.

I have provided a link from the DfE that provides a parent summary of the key aspects of their guidance should you require further information:

<https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/what-parents-and-carers-need-to-know-about-early-years-providers-schools-and-colleges-during-the-coronavirus-covid-19-outbreak/what-parents-and-carers-need-to-know-about-early-years-providers-schools-and-colleges-in-the-autumn-term>

Finally, I would like to thank you all for the continued support for the academy and its students over the past six months. We look forward to this next academic year with pragmatism, purpose and positivity.

Yours Faithfully



Mr W Pratt  
Principal



