

Dear Students, Parents and Carers,

I hope that this letter finds you and your families well and that you can look forward to time together next week. I would like to once again thank you for your support in ensuring that the beginning of this year has been a positive start for students and for staff.

Students have engaged excellently with the significant changes to the layout of the Academy and the impact that has on its processes and procedures. They have embraced the need to keep excellent hand hygiene and the importance of moving responsibly and respectfully around the Academy site during transition times.

The Academy continues to promote the use of face masks within the building and I would like to remind everyone that these can be worn in any location indoors and outdoors on the Academy site. There are now a number of locations in the surrounding areas which have moved into "tier two restrictions". If, or when these restrictions are placed on our local area then the wearing of face masks will become mandatory in all communal areas within the Academy. Although I hope it is not the case, it is possible that this may occur over the half term holiday and I therefore would recommend strongly that, if they do not have one already, students acquire their own face mask. The Academy does have a number of masks that are available to students who have forgotten or misplaced their own.

I appreciate that information can change quickly and in previous letters I have provided a link to the DfE that provides a parent summary of the key aspects of their guidance. The following is a link to the updated 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>

When I wrote to you all in December 2019, I identified that "one of the key focuses for the Academy in the New Year will be the relaunching of Student Voice" and although the work planned for that term was stifled by the school's closure in March, I am pleased to report that this year has started proactively. The Academy has distributed almost 100 badges to our newly formed, year group specific Student Voice members. The areas identified for initial focus by the council members include, tackling sustainability, organising charity events (to build on the success of this term's "Hello Yellow" day) to increase peoples understanding of tolerance and inclusion with a specific focus of LGBTQ.

I am also pleased to update you all on the excellent work of Miss Flatman who has continued to coordinate, promote and train the Anti-Bullying Ambassador group. Although she has sadly had to allow a majority of last year's team to prioritise their GCSE studies, she has reported a swelling in the ranks of "infectiously eager and excited younger members" who have received some training already as part of the Diana Award. The group's identified priorities for this year include; creating a website that promotes literature and support from a student perspective, tackling online safety, promoting kindness across the Academy and online and finally an ambition to create a "zen" garden for students during more amenable weather conditions. There are more opportunities for training courses booked for November to enable more students within the Academy to become Anti-Bullying Ambassadors if they have missed the opportunity. I encourage you all to contribute.

As an update for parents and carers we are currently reviewing the potential use of the Google Guardian platform as our sole home learning method of communication with students, parents and carers. This may result in our current system, Show my Homework, being replaced. When we return from the half term holiday the Academy will provide a google form that we would like you to complete to gather information regarding the use of Show My Homework as an effective platform, and we would also value your opinions on the frequency, quantity and quality of home learning set for your child.

I am aware that you will be eager for more bespoke information on your child's reintegration into the Academy and academic progress after such a lengthy period of enforced absence. The priority for this half term has been focused on implementing successfully the vast array of new procedures and protocols whilst ensuring that students and staff feel familiar and confident with them. However the Academy is continually reviewing which elements of practise can be developed further and during the past two weeks we have completed trials for virtual parent's evenings and envisage that we will be able to offer our first year group parents evening prior to the Christmas break. If successful we hope to offer further events in the following term to include other year groups.

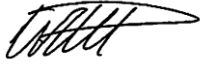
In final news, the Academy is being represented, in a significantly reduced ceremony, on Remembrance Sunday (8th November) by Mr Purcell who is laying a wreath on behalf of the Academy at the Memorial Garden adjacent to Ripon Cathedral. Another wreath will be laid at the Cenotaph in Harrogate. These moments of reflection seem ever more poignant this year as we commemorate the memories of those who have made sacrifices for the benefit of their communities and those in the future.

I hope that you all have a fantastic half term break and that your time together remains enjoyable during these difficult times. If you require any further information about next term there is lots of information on the academy web page <https://www.ripon.outwood.com/>, Twitter @outwoodripon and Facebook @OutwoodAcademyRipon pages. Alternatively send an email directly to enquiries@ripon.outwood.com.

I am looking forward to welcoming the students back on Monday 2nd November. These next two terms are synonymous with much cooler temperatures and

inclement weather so please ensure that your child has a suitable coat or jacket to protect them from the seasonal challenges of winter. Thank you once again for your support.

Yours faithfully,

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

W Pratt
Principal