

10 June 2020

Dear Parents and Carers

RE: UPDATE TO PARENTS OF STUDENTS WHO ARE ATTENDING OUR ON-SITE CARE PROVISION

I hope you and your family are well.

Further to my letter to parents last week, I write as your child is currently attending our onsite provision for key workers and other eligible students.

As you will be aware, the Government and medical advisors consider the situation with the coronavirus to be improving and would like Year 10 students to return for some face-to-face support from 15 June 2020. This is in addition to key workers and eligible students already attending.

The Government advice states that no more than 25% of the Year 10 cohort should attend on any one day, so please be reassured the number of students on site is still very small.

This means that from 15 June 2020 there will be some adjustments to your child's day, to ensure social distancing is maintained and that your child's group operates separately from the Year 10 provision.

Our commitment to safety

Our number one priority is the safety of students, our families and our staff. We have worked hard to ensure that we meet the Government guidelines for reopening and in some places we are pleased to say that we exceed those guidelines. Since the lock down began, we have remained open to provide childcare for the children of key workers and other eligible students and in doing so we have demonstrated therefore that with care and sensible planning and strong teamwork, your child is safe in our care.

We are only able to re-open the academy for those Year 10 students not currently attending if the Government and the medical experts continue to confirm that it is safe to do so. Should the Public Health Authority indicate otherwise (for example with any change in the R factor) we will take immediate action to close the academy.

The documents that follow this letter set out the arrangements we have put in place to ensure as high a degree of safety as possible.

What do I need to do now?

Please ensure you read Appendix 1 - *Details of our Arrangements*. This document outlines the adjustments to your child's routines. Please also read Appendix 2 - *Frequently Asked Questions*.

There is a lot of information, but I wanted you to have the full detail of what we are doing to make the Academy safe and welcoming for our students. While it will be a little different to normal, we will of course take the time to ensure your child and all of the young people understand the changes.

The logo for Oasis Academy Silvertown is located at the top left of the page. It consists of a purple square containing the word "Oasis" in white, with a white circle around the letter 'O'. Below this, a dark blue triangle points downwards, containing the words "Academy" and "Silvertown" in white. A dark blue line extends from the right side of the triangle across the top of the page.

Oasis

Academy
Silvertown

Thank you as ever for your patience and understanding during this time, and the support you are showing our team who are working exceptionally hard to do all they can for the students.

Yours faithfully

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Johanna Thompson".

Johanna Thompson
Principal

Details of our arrangements for students at Oasis Academy Silvertown from 15 June 2020

1) The 2m rule and student numbers

We will be implementing the 2 square metre social distancing rule everywhere for everyone. We have completed a careful evaluation of the space and our staff capacity and have established that we can safely accommodate our Key Workers and Eligible students in our large science classrooms. These are well ventilated and equipped with sinks for handwashing. The group your child is working in will be completely separate from the Year 10 cohort attending daily.

2) Drop-off, pick up and communication through the day

As you can imagine, entering and exiting the academy poses a challenge for managing social distancing for our students. Being outside does significantly reduce the risk but we will be asking students to access the Academy only via the student gate. There will be sanitiser to use upon arrival at the gate.

On the day which they have been allocated, students will be asked to arrive between **8:45am and 9:15am**. Students will be finishing school at the usual time of **3pm**.

During the day, we ask that parents communicate with us only via the telephone: **02070592500**. To reduce any further risk, parents and all other external visitors to the Academy will not be allowed onto school premises for the time being.

3) Temperature Testing and Testing for the coronavirus

While it is not a requirement, each student will have a temperature check with a thermal (non-contact) thermometer upon arrival. If any student has a temperature we will contact parents immediately and ask them to return home to reduce the risk of any transmission of the virus. Please be assured that staff will be undergoing the same checks.

If you think your child is displaying symptoms of the virus it would be helpful to get them tested. You can do so by checking for the nearest centre here (<https://www.gov.uk/apply-coronavirus-test>) If they test positive, we depend on you to alert us at the soonest possible moment so that we can advise others who have potentially been in contact, and take the necessary steps to isolate students and staff.

4) Risk Assessments

We have completed a thorough risk assessment following guidance from the Government and detailed guidelines from the Oasis Community Learning Trust. You can read the Government's guidance by searching the internet for 'Opening schools guidance for parents.'

We have reviewed every procedure in the school in light of the virus, including how we will set out classrooms, the use of PPE (personal protective equipment) by staff, how to manage drop-off and pick up, the use of temperature checks, how the students will have access to hand washing, how they will move around the Academy safely and many more issues.

The risk assessment will be signed off by the Oasis National Leadership Team along with myself as Principal and will remain under constant review as we monitor our progress and as the country's situation changes.

5) Social Distancing

As indicated above, we have created social distancing routes around the Academy and we have rearranged classrooms to meet requirements for social distancing. We have prioritised the use of classrooms with sinks, or nearby to washing facilities.



With this in mind, we will be developing strict routines for the students to follow and we have kept the ratios of students to staff very low. In order to reduce opportunities for transmission, we will keep them in small groups which will remain the same throughout the time they are in school. They will stay in one classroom with limited movement around the Academy. Where possible they will have their food and drinks brought to them. If they use any other equipment (such as a laptop) it will be sanitised afterwards before it is allowed to be used by others.

6) Personal Protective Equipment (PPE)

We have a stock of PPE within the Academy, including face-masks, disposable gloves, disposable aprons, hand sanitisers and soap. While we are not expecting to have any shortages of PPE, we will only remain open if we have enough equipment.

Please note that from the 15 June it will be mandatory for all users of public transport (with the exception of young children and disabled people) to wear face masks. (See point 8 below.) The latest Government guidance, however, is that wearing a face mask in schools is not recommended; effective cleaning, excellent hygiene and developing new routines are deemed the most effective way to control the spread of the virus. Nonetheless, we have agreed that should you wish your child to wear a face mask they may do so. This is the same for staff. For hygiene purposes, only academy issued face masks may be worn. These will be issued at the academy gate.

7) Uniform

Students can attend in their PE kit. In order to take every opportunity to limit any spread of the virus we respectfully recommend that you wash your child's clothes which they have worn to school at the end of every day. Please contact us urgently if there are any issues with your child's PE kit.

8) Hygiene

We have increased cleaning across the Academy, with a focus on regularly wiping down door handles and hard surfaces. There will be disinfectant sprays and paper for cleaning purposes in each classroom. The Academy will be thoroughly cleaned each day and will have been thoroughly cleaned before each group of students arrive. We have established routines for hand washing on coming into and leaving the Academy, and also before and after breaks. There are hand sanitizers located around the Academy.

9) Getting to and from school

The Government continues to advise that students should try to avoid public transport especially at peak times and, where possible, travel to and from the Academy by walking or cycling. We have staggered arrival times with this in mind – see point 2. We know that this will not always be possible, so please let us know any concerns around this.

The Government has also announced that wearing face coverings will become a requirement for using public transport from 15 June, and they have shared advice for people on how to make their own face coverings at home, using scarves or other textile items (you can read this advice by searching the internet for 'how to wear and make a cloth face covering'.)

These face coverings should cover the mouth and nose while allowing the wearer to breathe comfortably and can be as simple as a scarf or bandana that ties behind the head to give a snug fit. Please note that face coverings are not the same as face masks, and it is important that medical grade PPE masks remain available for frontline staff.

To maintain social distancing and ensure safety, if you are dropping your child off by car, please do this in areas where there is plenty of space and footpath such as Pier Road or Albert Road. We respectfully

request you do not use the “blind corner” of Brixham/Dockland street as a car drop off point for safety reasons. We also respectfully ask that you do not gather at the gate at drop off/pick up in order to maintain social distancing.

10) Equipment

Please do not allow students to bring any equipment into school including any school bags. See the next paragraph about school lunches. If students can bring their own water bottle that would be helpful, and please can this be labelled with their name.

We will be giving students their own pens and pencils to use while they are at school and these will be dedicated for their personal use.

11) School lunches

All students who are able to attend school will be provided with a free school lunch. Therefore, there is no need for your child to bring food into the Academy. If you do wish your child to bring their own lunch, however, this is acceptable.

If you are eligible for the Government’s food voucher scheme, run by Edenred, then you will continue to receive a voucher in the usual way even if your child attends the academy and receives a meal there. We will update you if these arrangements change.

12) Curriculum planning and remote learning

Remote learning will continue for all subjects, with live Teams Tutorials continuing for non-core subjects and taught lessons on site replacing live Teams Tutorials for core subjects. All Year 10 students will be given a new timetable that specifies which day they should attend the academy and which subject they should complete on other days and at which times. It is important that your child follows this timetable, completing all online work and attending all live Teams Tutorials. Your child’s mentor will continue to support your child with regular calls and by monitoring their work completion.

For any students unable to attend the academy during this time, online lessons and support will continue as it has been.

Frequently asked questions (FAQs) and the latest advice from the Government

I know that you will have many questions about returning to school; I have copied below some of the Government's latest advice which I hope will address some of the most frequent questions. You can read the Government's advice by searching the internet for 'reopening schools information for parents.'

Can my child return to school?

From the 15 June, we are asking secondary schools and sixth forms to begin offering some face-to-face support to year 10 pupils to supplement their remote education, which should remain their predominant mode of education during this term.

This approach aims to limit numbers within schools and further education settings while ensuring that the young people who can benefit from attending most are able to do so.

How will risks to children, teachers and families be managed?

We have provided guidance and support to schools, colleges and childcare settings on implementing protective measures in education and childcare settings to help them to reduce the risk of transmission as more children and young people return.

Approaches we are asking schools and other settings to include:

- carrying out a risk assessment before opening to more children and young people - the assessment should directly address risks associated with coronavirus (COVID-19) so that sensible measures can be put in place to minimise those risks
- making sure that children and young people do not attend if they or a member of their household has symptoms of coronavirus (COVID-19)
- promoting regular hand washing for 20 seconds with running water and soap and ensuring good respiratory hygiene by promoting the catch it, bin it, kill it
- cleaning more frequently to get rid of the virus on frequently touched surfaces, such as door handles, handrails, table tops, play equipment and toys
- minimising contact through smaller classes or group sizes and altering the environment as much as possible, such as changing the layout of classrooms
- reducing mixing between groups through timetable changes, such as staggered break times or by introducing staggered drop-off and collection times

If my child is eligible, is it compulsory for them to attend school?

We strongly encourage children and young people in the eligible year groups and priority groups (such as children of critical workers) to attend, as requested by their school or college, unless they are self-isolating or there are other reasons for absence (such as shielding due to health conditions).

You should notify your child's school or college as normal if your child is unable to attend so that staff are aware and can discuss with you. Parents will not be fined for non-attendance at this time.

Do all vulnerable young people who are not currently attending have to go back to childcare settings, school or college now?

Educational settings should continue to offer places to priority groups. In particular, as per the existing guidance on supporting vulnerable children and young people during the coronavirus outbreak, vulnerable children of all year groups continue to be expected and encouraged to attend educational provision where it is appropriate for them to do so.

- For children who have a social worker, attendance is expected unless their social worker decides that they are at less risk at home or in their placement.
- For children who have an education health and care (EHC) plan, attendance is expected where it is determined, following a risk assessment, that their needs can be as safely or more safely met in the educational environment.
- For children who are deemed otherwise vulnerable, at the school, college or local authority discretion, attendance is expected where this is appropriate.

Should I keep my child at home if they have an underlying health condition or live with someone in a clinically vulnerable group?

Children and young people who are considered extremely clinically vulnerable and shielding should continue to shield and should not be expected to attend.

Clinically vulnerable (but not clinically extremely vulnerable) people are those considered to be at a higher risk of severe illness from coronavirus (COVID-19). A minority of children will fall into this category, and parents should follow medical advice.

Young people who live in a household with someone who is extremely clinically vulnerable and shielding should only attend if stringent social distancing can be adhered to and the child or young person is able to understand and follow those instructions.

Young people who live with someone who is clinically vulnerable (but not extremely clinically vulnerable) as defined in the social distancing guidance and including those who are pregnant, can attend.

Can young people be tested for the virus?

Young people and staff in all settings are eligible for testing if they become ill with coronavirus (COVID-19) symptoms, as are members of their household. This will enable young people to get back to childcare or education, and their parents or carers to get back to work, if the test proves to be negative. A positive test will ensure rapid action to protect their classmates and staff in their setting.

What if there is a confirmed case of coronavirus (COVID-19) in my child's school?

When a young person or staff member develops symptoms compatible with coronavirus (COVID-19), they should be sent home and advised to self-isolate for 7 days. Their fellow household members should self-isolate for 14 days. All staff and students will have access to a test if they display symptoms of coronavirus (COVID-19).

Where the young person or staff member tests positive, the rest of their group within their education setting should be sent home and advised to self-isolate for 14 days. The other household members of that wider class/group do not need to self-isolate unless the young person or staff member they live with in that group subsequently develops symptoms.

As part of the national test and trace programme, if other cases are detected within the child or young person's cohort or in the wider education or childcare setting, Public Health England's local Health Protection Teams will conduct a rapid investigation and will advise schools and other settings on the most appropriate action to take. In some cases, a larger number of other children and young people may be asked to self-isolate at home as a precautionary measure - perhaps the whole class, site or year group.

Where settings are observing guidance on infection prevention and control, which will reduce risk of transmission, closure of the whole setting will not generally be necessary.



Will education be provided as normal to children and young people who are attending?

Schools continue to be best placed to make decisions about how to support and educate their pupils during this period.

For pupils in year 10 and 12, and 16-19 learners in the first year of their course, we are asking schools to supplement remote education with some face-to-face support for these year groups from 15 June.

Remote education will remain the predominant mode of education for these pupils, and schools and colleges will be able to have a quarter of the year 10 and year 12 pupils in at any one time. Schools and colleges should consider how to best use this time to support those pupils who are starting their final year of study for GCSEs, A levels and other qualifications next academic year.

How should my child travel to and from their childcare, school or college?

Children, young people and parents are encouraged to walk or cycle where possible and avoid public transport at peak times. You can refer to the government's guidance on safe travel, particularly on public transport.

Home to school transport provided or organised by schools, trusts or local authorities varies widely. Schools, trusts and local authorities should work together and with relevant transport providers to put in place arrangements which fit the local circumstances, including the measures being put in place to reduce contact.