

Dear parents and carers,

## Oasis Academy Immingham reopening for all pupils in September

I hope you and your families have had a pleasant summer despite the unusual times.

I wanted to let parents/carers and students know the latest information we have in these ever changing times and what that means for your child's return to the academy.

As you will be aware, the Government has made it clear that all pupils, in all year groups, are expected to return to school full-time from the beginning of September. You [can read the guidance here](#)/by searching for 'DfE guidance parents.'

To ensure that all pupils and staff can return safely, there are a significant number of actions that the Government have asked us to take. We must:

- Minimise the risk of transmission of coronavirus
- Be able to continue teaching and learning in the case of a local outbreak
- Alter how we run the Academy day-to-day to meet the new safety requirements
- Amend our curriculum, behaviour and pastoral support offer in the context of all the new arrangements.

The purpose of this letter is to explain how we intend to meet these expectations. As always, our first priority is the safety and wellbeing of the children, your family and our staff. We will take every precaution, so that we reduce the risk as much as possible and be in a position to finally welcome back all of our students.

The arrangements we are putting in place are lengthy to explain. For ease of reference I have attached them to this letter but provided a brief summary of them below together with the details that specifically relate to your child. I have also attached a shortened copy of the Government's latest advice to parents for your reference.

### Summary of arrangements

1. With the support of Oasis Community Learning, we have completed an in-depth risk assessment which has been reviewed by the academy's local health and safety committee. This committee will continue to meet weekly until further notice.

2. In order to reduce the risk of transmission across the whole academy each class /group will be part of a 'bubble' that will stay together throughout each day, being taught in one classroom and have break and lunchtimes together. Students from each Year Group will be taught in one part of the school and have break and lunchtimes together and that will be their bubble. This will reduce the number of contacts each student has with other year groups and reduce the chance of spreading infection.

3. Hygiene is an essential part of a safe return, and pupils and staff will be required to wash their hands thoroughly upon arrival at school, before and after eating, and after break times. Hygiene will be everyone's responsibility, including all pupils, to ensure we make the Academy as safe as we possibly can.

You may consider providing your child with a personal bottle of hand sanitiser. This is especially important if your child has a skin condition or an allergy that may mean the standard sanitiser we make available is inappropriate. Everyone will be reminded of the importance of 'Catch it, Bin it, Kill

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it' approach, and we will have enough tissues and bins available throughout the school to follow this routine. Hygiene will be everyone's responsibility, including all students, to ensure we make the Academy as safe as we possibly can.

As per normal, the Academy will be cleaned every day, and we will be wiping down surfaces and equipment more frequently to reduce transmission of the virus.

4. As you will no doubt be aware, the Government has mandated the use of face coverings for secondary students as they move around their school in communities where there is a high level of transmission and left it up to the discretion of schools about further use.

Again, this is a matter that Oasis has given a lot of thought to. Oasis believes that the health and safety of our students and staff is not a discretionary matter. We will therefore require students to wear face coverings as they move around the building, and all staff to wear visors when they are teaching and face coverings when social distancing is not possible. Please see the attached document for more information and for details as to how this will work for your child. We have reached this decision on the basis that we are of the view that everyone is responsible for everyone else's health and we trust that you will be reassured by this.

## Questions and feedback

We completely understand that you will need to feel confident about the arrangements. Please take the time to read the accompanying arrangements document where we explain in more detail how school will work in this 'new normal' environment. If you have any questions or concerns that are not addressed in these documents, please contact us [office@oasisimmingham.org](mailto:office@oasisimmingham.org)

## More Details about our arrangements

### 1) Attendance

The Government's guidance is clear that students are expected to attend school from September following the DfE statutory guidance.

This means that parents have a duty to ensure that their child regularly attends school, and that schools have a responsibility to record attendance and follow up absence.

### 2) Social Distancing and bubbles

In addition to the information in my letter, we will have a number of one-way systems in place, and there will be 2m distance tapes in place around the Academy so that pupils can be reminded of the need for distancing wherever possible. There will also be notices reminding students about the need for good respiratory hygiene (catch it/bin it /kill it) and we will ensure ventilation wherever possible.

### 3) Amended start and end times dependent on year group

It is important students arrive in their allotted time slot so as not to make contact with students outside of their bubble.

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Year group	Arrival time between	End time	Enter via	Leave via
Year 8	8.45-9.00	2.55	Front of the academy	School Walk
Year 9	8.30-8.45	2.45	Front of the academy	Front of the academy
Year 10	8.15-8.30	2.55	Front of the academy	Front of the academy
Year 11	8.15-8.30	2.50	School Walk	School Walk

#### 4) Hygiene and cleaning

We will ensure that everyone understands that good hygiene is everyone's responsibility and that everyone is responsible for everyone else's health.

We will maintain intensified cleaning routines with a focus on regularly wiping down door handles and hard surfaces. As per normal, the Academy will be cleaned every day and there will be disinfectant sprays and paper for cleaning purposes in each classroom.

#### 5) Risk assessments

The risk assessment described overleaf has been developed through risk assessment following guidance from the Government and detailed guidelines from the Oasis Community Learning.

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.

#### 6) 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 3. We know that this will not always be possible, so please let us know any concerns around this.

#### 7 Coming into school - Mask procedures

Please note however that face coverings are required at all times on public transport (for children over the age of 11).

When pupils arrive at school they will be required to wash their hands immediately. They will then be required to dispose of any temporary face coverings they may have been wearing in a covered bin, or place reusable face coverings in a plastic bag which they can pick up later when leaving to go home, and then wash their hands again before heading to their classroom.

Pupils who wear face masks on the way to school must remove them on arrival by using the straps rather than the front of their mask.

The Academy face covering will be made of cloth and therefore is re-useable and washable. We ask that they are washed at home on a regular basis. They will be colour coded by year group and will be treated as an item of uniform. When in class, students should 'wear' the face covering around their neck and put it on their face when they are seeking support from a staff member or whenever social distancing is not possible.

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When going to the dining hall, they should wear their covering on their face until they are seated for the purposes of eating. At this point they should lower their covering to their neck. After eating, the covering should be lifted back onto their face.

We continue to have a stock of PPE within the Academy, including face-masks, disposable gloves, disposable aprons, hand sanitisers and soap, if required.

In light of Government advice, we will no longer be undertaking thermometer testing upon arrival.

### **8) Water bottles and other equipment**

Pupils are required to bring in their own water bottle for their individual use. These must be labelled and can be re-filled during the day.

Pupils should not bring in any unnecessary equipment into school. We will be giving pupils their own pens and pencils to use while they are at school and these will be dedicated for their personal use.

### **9) No access/no outdoor visitors**

To help us reduce the risk of infection, we will not be able to receive visitors or parents until further notice. During the day, we ask that parents communicate with us only via the telephone (*insert Academy number*).

### **10) Food and packed lunches**

Each bubble will have a time allocated to access the dining area and hot food provision.

Students may bring in packed lunches, but they must remain within their bags throughout the day, and any rubbish should be taken home each day.

### **11) 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 3. We know that this will not always be possible, so please let us know any concerns around this.

Wearing face coverings is a requirement for using public transport for children over 11. There is advice online 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 '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.

### **12 Uniform and equipment**

All students will return to full uniform. **Uniform**

Uniform will go back to normal following a relaxation in rules over this period. Students can choose to wear trousers or a skirt.

## Skirt

Academy Grey Check Skirt – Length to be worn to the bottom of the knee or longer to be purchased from Uniform Direct .

## Trousers

Mid-Grey Tailored Trousers to Ankle/Top of shoe (for boys and girls) these should be a formal style with either shaped leg, boot-cut or standard fit (tight fitting, cropped/ankle grazer, denim style trousers and leggings are not permissible).

## Shoes

Should be smart black (natural or synthetic leather) and worn at all times. No other materials are allowed. Students are not permitted to wear trainers, boots or open toe footwear. Shoes should be of a sensible design and height covering the entire foot. At lunchtime students may wear trainers when taking part in sport, however, these should not be worn inside the main academy building.

## Hair

Hair should be well-groomed and hair styles should be conventional and of a natural colour. A cut shorter than a grade 2 is unlikely to be acceptable.

## Piercings

Nose studs are not permitted. They will have to be removed. We recommend any ear piercings are done earlier in the summer holidays to give them time to heal before returning in case of infection.

## PE Kit

Academy PE Polo Shirt  
Academy Rugby Shirt or Academy Sweatshirt  
Academy Sports Socks  
Academy Sports Shorts  
Plain Trainers with grip and ankle support  
Football Boots & Bag  
Navy Tracksuit bottoms - Plain (Optional)

## Equipment

We are providing the following equipment.

- Pens
- Pencil
- Ruler
- Eraser
- Protractor
- Compass
- Planner
- Colour pencils for art

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- These are to be left on their desks and will only be used by them.
- They will leave this equipment at school and will not be bringing work books home currently.
- We would ask that you would buy them a scientific calculator we do have them but we are discouraging the sharing of equipment.
- They will need a bag and a coat
- They will be issued with a reading book

### 13) Behaviour

We will be making some minor amendments to our behaviour policy to reflect our new arrangements. We will publish this on the Academy website's policies page before the beginning of term. Due to the current situation we are still unable to hold parental meetings within the academy but we will be in contact via phone if necessary and as always we appreciate your full support and collaboration about deterring any elements of poor behaviour.

### 14) Suspected symptoms, a confirmed case, and multiple confirmed cases

We will be following the government's direct guidance on what to do if there a student or staff member has suspected coronavirus symptoms or is confirmed to have the virus. We have provided this guidance at the end of Government Guidance and Frequently Asked Questions section.

#### Government guidance and frequently asked questions

You may have questions about the Government's approach to reopening schools. I have summarised some of the Government's latest advice which I hope will address some your questions. You can read the Government's full advice by searching '*DfE parents guidance.*'

#### Is it safe to return?

The prevalence of coronavirus has decreased since schools restricted their opening to most pupils, the NHS Test and Trace system is up and running and we understand more about the measures that need to be in place to create safer environments in schools.

The scientific evidence shows that coronavirus (COVID-19) presents a much lower risk to children than adults of becoming severely ill, and there is no evidence that children transmit the disease any more than adults. There will still be risks while coronavirus (COVID-19) remains in the community, and that is why schools will be asked to put in place a range of protective measures.

#### More on public transport

As I explained overleaf, where possible, young people are encouraged to avoid public transport, particularly at peak times, and to walk or cycle to school. Where your child relies on public transport to get to school, and cannot walk or cycle, the [safer travel guidance for passengers](#) will apply. Face coverings are required at all times on public transport (for children over the age of 11).

#### Curriculum

The Government has set out expectations on what schools are expected to teach when pupils return in September. Schools will continue to provide an ambitious and broad curriculum in all subjects. There may need to be changes to some subjects - such as PE and other practical subjects - to ensure they can be delivered safely.

#### Assessment and exams

The Government recognises that young people will have missed a critical period of their learning due to lockdown in the 2019 to 2020 academic year.

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For those students going into Year 11 and Year 13 from September, the government is planning on the basis that GCSEs and A levels will take place in summer 2021.

### **Extra-curricular activities**

The Government advises that

- schools will be permitted to run after-school activities. They must be delivered in line with the guidance on protective measures, so things may need to run things differently.
- schools can resume educational day trips, in line with the latest public health guidance and wider guidance for schools on the actions they can take to reduce risks.

### **Suspected symptoms of coronavirus amongst the school community**

The Academy will fully engage with the NHS Test and Trace process and contact our local Public Health England health protection team. Parents/carers need to be ready to:

- book a test if you or your child are displaying symptoms. Pupils must not come into the school if they have symptoms, and must be sent home to self-isolate if they develop.
- provide details of anyone you have been in close contact with if you or your child test positive for coronavirus or if asked by NHS Test and Trace
- self-isolate if you have been in close contact with someone who develops coronavirus symptoms or someone who tests positive for coronavirus

Anyone who displays symptoms of coronavirus should get a test. Tests can be booked online through the NHS testing and tracing website. Parents must inform us immediately of the results:

- if you or your child tests negative, and if you or your child feel well and no longer have symptoms similar to coronavirus (COVID-19), you can stop self-isolating.
- if you or your child tests positive, you should follow the 'stay at home: guidance for households with possible or confirmed coronavirus infection' and must continue to self-isolate for at least 7 days from the onset of their symptoms and your child may only return to school if they do not have symptoms other than a cough.

### **Confirmed case of coronavirus amongst the school community**

The Academy will take swift action if we become aware that someone who has attended has tested positive for coronavirus. We will contact the local health protection team that will carry out a rapid risk assessment to confirm who has been in close contact with the person during the period that they were infectious, and ensure they are asked to self-isolate. Based on the advice from the health protection team, we would then send home those pupils who have been in close contact with the person who has tested positive, advising them to self-isolate for 14 days since they were last in close contact with that person when they were infectious. Close contact means:

- direct close contacts - face to face contact with an infected individual for any length of time, within 1 metre, including being coughed on, a face to face conversation, or unprotected physical contact (skin-to-skin)
- proximity contacts - extended close contact (within 1 to 2 metres for more than 15 minutes) with an infected individual

The health protection team will provide definitive advice on who must be sent home, and we will keep a record of pupils and staff in each bubble to help in this instance.

Household members of those contacts who are sent home do not need to self-isolate themselves unless your child who is self-isolating subsequently develops symptoms. If someone in a bubble that has been asked to self-isolate develops symptoms themselves within their 14-day isolation period they should follow 'stay at home: guidance for households with possible or confirmed coronavirus infection'. They should get a test, and:

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- if the test delivers a negative result, they must remain in isolation for the remainder of the 14-day isolation period.
- if the test result is positive, they should inform us immediately, and must isolate for at least 7 days from the onset of their symptoms. Their household should self-isolate for at least 14 days from when the symptomatic person first symptoms had, following 'stay at home: guidance for households with possible or confirmed coronavirus infection'

#### **If we have more than one confirmed case**

If the Academy was to experience an outbreak (2 or more confirmed cases of coronavirus among pupils or staff within 14 days, or if there is an increase in absence due to suspected cases of coronavirus), we will contact our local health protection team. This team will advise any additional action, though the closure of the whole school will generally not be necessary.

Where an outbreak in a school is confirmed, a mobile testing unit may be dispatched to test others who may have been in contact with the person who has tested positive. Testing will focus on the person's class, their year group, the whole school, if necessary. If our local area sees a spike in infection rates, we may be advised to implement further measures.

#### **What do I need to do now?**

There is a lot of information here, 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 all of our students understand the changes when we welcome them back, and will provide additional support for any of our young people who are apprehensive having been out of school for such a long time.

Having considered the information in this letter and the FAQs, please let us know if you have any further questions you or your child would like to know please email [office@oasisimmingham.org](mailto:office@oasisimmingham.org)

If you don't have any further questions, we look forward to seeing your child on *7<sup>th</sup> September*

Thank you as ever for your patience and understanding during this time, and the support you are providing to your child. We cannot wait to welcome them back so that they safely and happily can get back to their studies.

Yours sincerely,



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