

Ref: GDZ

5 January, 2021

Dear Parent / Carer,

I wrote to you yesterday following the Government's announcement about the National Lockdown and the closure of schools.

I am sorry to be writing to you again so soon on this subject. However, as you will now be aware, the situation is changing daily as more details about the lockdown become available.

As part of this, all primary schools, secondary schools and colleges in England, including our school, Outwood Academy Portland, will remain closed until at least the end of half term in February, except for children of key workers or vulnerable children. Early years settings remain open.

As you know, we have worked incredibly hard since the start of the pandemic in March to keep our school as safe as possible, and I would like to take this opportunity to remind you of the safety measures in place at our school:

- All students and staff must wear a face covering in communal areas, unless exempt
- Everyone is expected to remain in their allocated bubbles
- Students are encouraged to wash their hands regularly throughout the day

#### **Vulnerable students and children of key workers**

**If you or your partner is a key worker, or if your child is classed as vulnerable, then the school will remain open**, as now, and we look forward to seeing them in school every day as normal for teaching and learning. If you would like your child to attend the key worker provision, then please complete the key worker form on the academy website.

#### **Ventilation**

Please note we are trying to work with windows open in classrooms for ventilation. As the cold days have returned, and with the need for ventilation in mind, pupils may need a few more layers of clothing, such as sweatshirts, tights or leggings underneath skirts or plain fleeces without a hood or large brand logos. **Academy uniform does not need to be worn when students are attending the academy for the vulnerable students and children of key workers provision.**

#### **Remote Learning**

**For all other pupils, our school is closed until at least the end of the February half-term.** High-quality remote learning will be provided to make sure they continue to receive a consistent education. We know that this places pressure on you at a difficult time but your support in helping your child engage with the remote learning packs as much as possible is so

important and we are very grateful for it. Thank you, to all the parents who continue to give us feedback about the positive impact the remote learning.

We will continue to stay in touch with you on this matter, and about your child's education. However, please contact us if you would like to discuss this matter, or if you require any support relating to these new arrangements.

### **Vocational examinations in January 2021**

The Government has confirmed that vocational examinations, scheduled for January 2021, will be going ahead as planned.

This means that our students, who have been preparing for examinations can still take the ones listed below:

- Hair and Beauty,
- Sport Studies,
- Creative Media
- Child Development

The students involved in these examinations will be contacted individually about the arrangements with regard to start/finish times and transportation.

### **GCSE Summer Examinations**

The Prime Minister also announced that "not all exams" would go ahead as normal this year and that there would be alternative arrangements. He said the Government would set out further details on this at a later date, and when that information is announced, we will update parents of students due to take exams this year. In the meantime, **all** pupils must engage with their online learning via Google Classroom.

### **Mass Testing – Lateral Flow Test (LFT)**

The Academy is continuing with their preparations for the mass testing of staff and students who will be taking part in the Vulnerable and Key Worker provision. Further information will be provided when the academy is ready to begin testing.

I would once again like to take this opportunity to thank you wholeheartedly for your understanding and ongoing support in helping us to manage this unprecedented situation. Please continue to take care and to stay safe.

Yours faithfully,



Mr G Dzoboku  
Principal