

21 May 2020

Dear Parent/Carer

As you will be aware, the government has asked schools to begin to plan to open for more students from early June. This is specifically for year 10 and 12 students in secondary schools.

We will, of course, continue to maintain our provision that we have offered since March to the children of critical workers and vulnerable children. These arrangements remain unchanged. We are already in contact with these parents.

My absolute priority moving forward is to ensure that we only open to more students if and when it is safe to do so. I am working with my team to carry out a robust risk assessment to inform my decision-making.

At this point, I would like to make it very clear that my expectation, in line with government guidance, is that this will be phased with very small numbers in the academy at any one time. This will be for year 10 (and 12) only for the summer term, alongside our critical worker and vulnerable children provision. All other year groups will continue with their online learning and will not be in school.

As your child is not in year 10 (or 12), online learning will continue to be the sole focus for their study. We will continue to seek to strengthen this online provision. To aid parents and carers Heads of Department have provided a summary of the curriculum Y7 students are following and extension opportunities. All students have Google Classroom logins and for those without internet access we have provided paper-based resources. We have shared a number of self-help videos via the Academy website and Twitter feed to support navigating Google Classrooms' completing the school work provided and submitting work to teachers.

Please find below an overview of the content for Year 8 for the remainder of this term.

Subject	Y8 Online Curriculum
English	Y8 students are currently exploring the Gothic genre through a range of stories, as well as completing their study of Shakespeare's Much Ado About Nothing . They will then be moving onto Michael Morpurgo's Private Peaceful . Students are continuing to develop Literacy skills too through the Written Accuracy Campaign. Extension work focuses on the ' At Home Reading Challenge ' which is delivered through Accelerated Reader . Any queries regarding Accelerated Reader can be directed to classroom teachers.

Maths	Y8 are currently studying Algebra with the equivalent of 3 lessons set per week; each has a starter, learning activity and a summative quiz. Within the quizzes, videos are included and then there are questions for each student to answer. After half term students are continuing with Algebra but will start problem-solving style questions. Extension work focuses on the ' MEMRI ' tasks on Hegarty Maths and ' Have A Go ' Maths competitions! Students can also join the ' Maths Masters ' classroom and try the stretch and challenge activities.
Science	All Y8 work is set via a Google form posted in student classrooms. A video is provided with learning facilitated by one of the OGAT Science Directors who delivers the session and then there are summative questions for your child to answer. Your child's class teachers will check the work and let your child know their marks. So far, students are completing a module on Space and in the coming weeks will move on to the Circulatory System . Extension tasks can be accessed via Educake where they can quiz on any subjects they have studied so far, or those which they are interested in. They are also welcome to go back to the earlier tasks and get creative making models, pictures, stories or poems about the topics we have studied and send these in to their teacher.
Geography	Y8 Geography students have just started a new topic on ' Resources ' which focuses on the question 'Do we have enough food/water/energy?'. All lessons are on Google Classrooms with links to GCSE Bite Size and the Oak National Academy. Extension tasks focus on food miles fieldwork.
History	Year 8 Historians are currently studying the Cold War - looking at key events such as the Space Race, Building and fall of the Berlin Wall and Cuban Missile Crisis . After half term students will move onto the Vietnam War, examining the causes, use of guerilla warfare, US tactics, My Lai and the reasons for US failure . Extension tasks are based around revision from the content of Y8, with links to BBC bitesize and History.Com. Students may want to focus their work around the two World Wars, The Cold War and Life in Nazi Germany .

DT	<p>Y8 have been set projects to complete in Product Design. This half term they have the Planter project:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> · Stage 1 Recycling research · Stage 2 Designing · Stage 3 Gathering resources · Stage 4 Making the product · Stage 5 Evaluating the end product. <p>After half term, the topic is the Pop Up Card project, which follows the same research, design, production and evaluation process.</p> <p>In Food Technology Y8 are working through the ‘Eat Well’ guide 1, 2 and 8 tips for healthy eating. Extension work uses the ‘How We Got To Now’ documentaries. Students can access a wide range of tasks from health and safety, keywords in DT and drawing techniques. All extension work is set in the Y8 DT Google classroom and is focussing on drawing techniques, health and safety and key vocabulary..</p>
Languages	<p>Y8 students are working on topics ‘House, Home and Local Area’ in their target language.’ Extension tasks focus on revising key vocabulary using their own self-made flashcards, following the Leitner system (which can be easily found on the internet). Students are focussing in particular on the ‘future and past tenses’. They have access to ‘How To...’ videos provided by Outwood teachers and Trust Directors. There are lots of creative opportunities within the Language classrooms including virtual tours of key locations from the target language they are studying and recipes to make at home.</p>
IT	<p>Y8 students are to work towards earning a bronze certificate in the iDEA: Digital Enterprise programme. They obtain badges for tasks that are on the site, and completing a number of these badges gives you the award. Badges that they should focus on are highlighted by their class teacher each week, and support provided via Google Classroom. Extension work is provided by staff when they have completed these badges and are ready to work towards silver.</p>
PE	<p>In Y8 learning focuses on fitness, dance and yoga activities for students to complete on Google Classroom. Three sessions to be completed per week from any of the three disciplines. Extension tasks are to do the Joe Wicks Daily Challenge and lots of additional challenges are posted via the @OutwoodGrangePE Twitter feed.</p>

Art	In Y8 a variety of practical Art activities and / or research and questions on specific topics are provided once a week for students to complete on paper, in their sketch pads or on Google Classroom. Year 8 are focussing on the comic style art of Roy Lichtenstein and the pop art collages of Peter Blake. Each week, students are provided with Google Classroom slides containing information, tasks and any additional support where necessary. Extension tasks are provided in individual Art classrooms including the Outwood Google Gallery challenge.
Drama	Y8 are focussing on Oliver Twist - Creating a physical character. Task 1 - Physical Research and Quiz, Task 2 - Oliver Video extracts - Answer Question, Task 3 Oliver Audio Extracts and Quiz. The extension task asks students to write a review of a Live Theatre production.
Music	In Y8 Music students are working on Listening and Appraising Skills to strengthen musical vocabulary and deepen understanding. Topics are linked to GCSE Music progression and include Film Music, Pop Music and music for ensemble. Extension tasks are provided for those that are able to complete regular music instrument practice and creative tasks using software .
Life	Y8 lessons focus on 'Sacred Places' and responding to a BBC documentary on 'Sacred Wonders' with follow up research tasks. They are moving onto 'Health Lifestyles' for their Summer term work. Extension work focuses on First Aid training . All work can be accessed via Google Classrooms.

Trying to maintain a sense of normality is a challenge and to address this the Academy has created two additional classrooms to support students. Firstly, the virtual VMG Programme has been established to provide the pastoral programme students would normally follow within the Academy. Within the VMG Programme classroom, students can watch weekly assemblies (eg 'Good News'; 'VE Day Celebrations'; 'National Share a Story Month') and complete a VMG activity; explore Careers of the Week; links to the Virtual Experience; and follow Current Affairs and the News Fix. As a polite reminder, all students should be completing the **VMG Student Check-In** each week which helps us to monitor how they are coping during the Academy closure. A new questionnaire is posted each Monday and where needed interventions are provided by either the VMG, Learning Manager or member of SLT.

Secondly, students can access the KS3 or KS4 Mindfulness Classroom. The classroom provides a wide range of resources, ideas and interventions for students to help manage mental health and well-being. In this classroom, students can access support from the Academy's Health and Well-being Practitioners, Ispace, who post daily mindfulness and self-care strategies. In addition, we have marked 'Mental Health Awareness Week' within both the VMG and Mindfulness classrooms as well as on our Twitter feed. The national focus has been on 'Kindness' and we have been overwhelmed with students' response to 'Thank A Teacher' where over 350 individual nominations have been posted for staff. Students have also submitted poems, art, photographs of how they are marking 'Clap for NHS Carers' as well as recipes they have made at home.

We have no further details yet with regard to increasing our provision for years 7, 8 and 9 but I would like to reiterate that I will operate in line with the government guidance and I will only open the academy to more students if and when it is safe to do so. However, it is important to note that students in years 7, 8 and 9 (other than children of critical workers vulnerable children) are **still not required** to attend the academy for the foreseeable future. I will of course write to you when decisions are made regarding this.

In these unprecedented times, where we have all had to learn and work in different ways, I would like to thank you for your amazing support with your child's online learning and for the encouragement you have given your child to continue to learn online. Please continue to do this. It makes a great difference.

In the meantime, if you have any questions or concerns, please do get in touch via the 'Contact Us' section of the website. Although your child may not be attending the academy, we are still very keen to support families where we can.

Yours faithfully

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'B. Kelly', written in a cursive style.

Brian Kelly
Principal