



# The Aylesbury Vale Academy

Including Berryfields Primary

COLLABORATING *for* EXCELLENCE

20 May 2020

Dear Parents and Carers

## **SCHOOL REOPENING FOLLOWING COVID19 CLOSURE**

I hope that you and your families are well.

I know that this has been a very challenging time for us all, but I am extremely proud of how our students, and you as parents/carers, have risen to the challenge of remote learning, sometimes under difficult circumstances. It is never the form of education we would prefer, but these are unprecedented times.

I would also like to take this opportunity to thank all of the staff for their unwavering professionalism and commitment to the school. We have remained open five days a week, including throughout the Easter holidays, Bank holidays and VE Day to support our brilliant NHS and Critical Workers. We will continue to remain open during half term.

Following the recent announcement by the government and the guidance by the Department for Education, we have been planning for the gradual re-opening of the school. You will appreciate that the safety of the children and staff is our number one priority in every decision we make.

As directed by the DfE, from the week commencing **01 June 2020**, we will welcome back more secondary students to school. However, we will continue to keep our plans under constant review and always act with in the best interests of students and their families.

### **Student Meetings**

As directed, for the first two weeks, we will be inviting Year 10 and 12 students for face to face wellbeing and progress meetings. Students will receive a phone call from a member of staff before **01 June** to arrange an appointment for them to come into school to meet with a member of staff. These meetings will take place from **Monday, 01 June** in the Main Hall between teachers and students with two-metre social distancing measures being observed. A full risk assessment can be found on our school website.

A Church of England Academy

Paradise Orchard • Berryfields • Aylesbury • Buckinghamshire • HP18 0WS

📞 01296 428 551 ✉ enquiries@theacademy.me 🌐 www.theacademy.me

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Students should arrive at the school's main reception, where they will be met by a member of staff and they will be asked to wash their hands immediately on entering the school. Following Department for Education guidelines, students are not required to wear face masks, but may do so if they wish. Uniform is not expected. Once their meeting is over, they will be free to leave. Unfortunately, we need to stress that anyone not adhering to social distancing and/or the academy's hygiene requests will be asked to leave the premises.

We understand that this plan may not suit all families and that some may feel frustrated with the limited face to face contact available. We would ask you to remember that the plans put in place are to support familiarisation and this face to face contact for students. We need to start in a manageable, safe manner with the opportunity to grow over the next few weeks. We hope that we are able to increase the scope of this face to face contact over time. We are looking forward to engaging with students as a step towards a normality that's a little more recognisable, but we will have to ease into that provision.

We have made the commitment to continue to engage in the Free School Meals Voucher scheme and, therefore, all parents/carers that are entitled to the vouchers, will continue to receive them; we know from speaking to so many of you that this is essential.

## **Students already in school**

We intend to continue provide learning for those students who have accessed the in-school provision so far, regardless of the year group they are in. We have limited capacity for this, but if you would like to enquire about this provision, please email us on [enquiries@theacademy.me](mailto:enquiries@theacademy.me).

## **Remote learning**

For all other students, we will continue to provide online resources through Show My Homework in the same manner as we have done since the end of March.

As you are aware, this is an ever-evolving situation. We will continue to monitor the situation closely and should we get any new advice from the Government, the Department for Education or the Local Authority. **All of our provision hinges on scientific evidence which is due to be reviewed on 28 May. The government has said that if at this time the evidence does not support a date of 01 June for wider opening, then the timetable will be delayed. We welcome that assurance.**

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This has been a very challenging time for us all. However, the commitment, support and understanding we have shown one another within our community has been overwhelming. We have all – parents, carers, staff and students - done our utmost to ensure our children are safe, well and continue to thrive with their learning. As always, should you have any questions please do not hesitate to contact me via email on [enquiries@theacademy.me](mailto:enquiries@theacademy.me)

Yours sincerely

**MR G GIBSON**  
**Secondary Headteacher**

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