



HOUGHTON REGIS ACADEMY

Principal: Mr S White

PA to the Principal: Mrs J Bradley

Parkside Drive, Houghton Regis, Bedfordshire LU5 5PX

Telephone: 01582 863294

Email: admin@houghtonregisacademy.org

Website: www.houghtonregisacademy.org



@HoughtonRegisAc

17th Sept 2020

Dear parents / carers,

Thank you for your continued support in getting all pupils back into the academy safely over the first two weeks. All of us are committed to providing the best education possible for your child, while securing the health and safety of our whole school community. Thank you for continuing to follow public health guidelines and encouraging your children to do the same.

You are already aware of the steps we have put in place to ensure the safe return of all pupils to the academy, our Operating Procedures and Risk Assessment can be found on the academy website. We know that you will be keen to understand the impact that we have had in our first weeks of the term, and what our plans are to ensure all pupils catch up with any missed learning, and what will happen if a pupil is asked to stay at home over the coming months.

That is why I am writing to you today in order to keep you fully informed. This letter will also be published on our website.

Academy re-opening;

When pupils come to the academy in the morning, they follow a coloured route to the external area in their zone. This is currently working effectively and as a result, we have no plans to change this approach. As a reminder;

- Year 7 follow blue route to the English area
- Year 8 follow green route to the Maths area
- Year 9 follow red route to the Science area

During the academy day, pupils are remaining in their zones for most lessons except when they need to move onto a specialised room for subjects such as Technology, Performing Arts or PE. All social times are spent in external zone areas and students have access to the canteen at lunchtime only at specific times. These measures are supporting us to keep the academy as safe as possible.

The Houghton Regis Academy is part of the Greenwood Dale Foundation Trust Group of Academies

The Greenwood Academies Trust is a company limited by guarantee, registered in England and Wales, registered number 06864339. A list of Directors is available for inspection at the registered office, Greenwood House, Private Road No 2, Colwick Quays Business Park, Nottingham NG4 2JY. Further information about us is available at

<http://www.greenwoodacademies.org>

Attendance;

Missing out on more time in the classroom risks pupils falling further behind. Those with higher overall absence tend to achieve less well. School attendance will therefore become mandatory from the beginning of the Autumn Term

The curriculum;

We have made some small changes to our curriculum. Pupils will receive more lessons in English and Maths as we believe strong literacy and numeracy skills can support learning in all areas. We have increased the number of PSHE (Personal, Social and Health Education) and PE lessons each student will receive. We believe supporting students physical, mental and social well-being is key to their successful return to the academy. As a result of increased PSHE and PE, we have reduced the number Humanities and MFL lessons. This will be kept under review across the year.

In class, I have asked teachers to focus on teaching lessons using four key fundamentals;

- Retrieval; recapping learning from previous lessons or units of work
- Teacher Instruction; breaking down learning into small chunks
- Student Practice; setting tasks which challenge and extend students
- Lesson review; Assessing student learning

During the week beginning 21st September, it is our intention to assess all students through a variety of baseline tests. The tests will allow us to identify any gaps in knowledge which may have developed over lockdown. To close those gaps, I have asked staff to consider teaching key knowledge to accelerate progress and maintain a focus on literacy in the classroom. Our curriculum teaching will be supplemented by a program of personalisation to ensure any gaps students have in their knowledge are filled.

Remote learning;

If individual students are required to remain at home to self-isolate, they will be provided with work to complete from the academy. This will be from a range of resources including video clips, private reading, research and or questions.

In the event of any future zone or full lockdown, the academy plans to deliver all lessons online via our platform Teams, Mrs Sidhu will lead on this work and she will communicate plans shortly. This follows our successful approach used to teach KS4 students during the initial phase of lockdown back in March. Students will follow their normal lessons from home, with staff teaching remotely. Please ensure you have responded to my previous letter regarding internet access and laptops as this will be key to the effectiveness of our online program.

Mental health and wellbeing;

I am delighted to say that we now have three fully trained Mental Health England support staff with each person attached to a Year group to provide mental health support to young people where needed;

- Miss Peck, Year 7
- Mr Granby, Year 8
- Miss Lowe, Year 9

In addition to this we expect to re-appoint our academy counsellor in the coming days. During tutorial and PSHE lessons, students are engaging in a series of mental health and well-being activities to support their continued return to the academy.

Thank you for your support in these challenging times. Please remember to follow both the academy and public health guidance to keep everyone learning safely.

With Best wishes



Mr S. White

Principal

#HRAwebelong