



25th September 2020

Dear Parent/Carer

I hope this letter finds you and your loved ones well.

A fantastic start to the year!

I write to you at the end of an incredibly positive first three weeks back at Yewlands Academy. We have all transitioned smoothly into the 'new normal' and I am immensely proud of behaviour and attitudes of our young people as they have been great! Thank you for the many messages of support I have received from parents/carers; these are always much appreciated. Myself and staff continue to commit ourselves to safely recovering and increasing the learning of all our students after their unprecedented time away from the school building.

Change to start times for Year 8, Year 9 and Year 11 from Monday 28th September

From Monday 28th September there will be a change in the arrival times for Years 8, 9 and 11. Students are expected to arrive promptly as per the times below:

Year 9 - 8.25am

Year 8 - 8.35am

Year 11 - 8.45am

All students in these year groups will continue to arrive and leave school via the Cinder Path entrance, continuing to line up on the Yard (weather permitting), before entering the building. **There are no changes to timings or arrangements for students in Years 7 and 10.**

Face masks

As recommended by Public Health Sheffield, we continue to ask all students and staff to wear face masks when moving round the Academy, including on corridors and in communal areas. Please could parents/carers support this by ensuring that their child brings a face mask to the Academy every day.

Coats

The Academy continues to follow all government guidance around Covid-19 and implement routines to support this. As the weather becomes cooler we ask that all students bring a coat to the Academy as their break and lunchtimes are outside. Please note that students will not have break or lunchtimes outside in poor weather.

Uniform

I am extremely pleased to see our students looking smart every day as they meet our high expectations of presentation around the Academy and in our community. If students do not have correct uniform, then we will lend the required item(s) for the day. Please refer to the uniform and personal property section of our webpage where you can find further details including information on how to order additional uniform:

https://www.yewlandsacademy.org/parents/uniform_and_personal_property/

Please contact your child's Tutor if you have any issues around uniform.

Attendance

Regular attendance is not just a legal requirement, but it is vital for students to maximise their learning and achieve their full potential here at Yewlands Academy. It is important to recognise that school attendance is a partnership between the Academy and parents/carers in helping students achieve their best in a safe, caring, friendly and inclusive environment where learning can flourish. There are a number of important steps that you can take to ensure your child maintains a high level of attendance:

- Ensure your child attends every day, on time, equipped and ready to learn
- If your child is ill, contact the Academy and provide an explanatory note on their return to Yewlands. Please make sure you telephone the Academy every day your child is absent
- It is important to ensure the Academy has up-to-date addresses and telephone numbers. We will contact you by text or by telephone if your child is absent and you have not contacted Yewlands. This ensures that we safeguard all of our children. Please log into EduLink and check that your contact details are correct.
- Ensure that medical appointments are made outside of school hours
- Holidays should not be taken in school time. Holidays will not be authorised during term time
- Contact your child's Tutor for any attendance support

Please do not send your child into the Academy if they have any of the following symptoms: a high temperature, a new continuous cough or a loss or change of their sense of taste or smell.

Equipment

All students were provided with the necessary equipment at the start of the school year, and these should be kept in their bags in their classrooms at the end of each day. Students must take responsibility for their work bag and replace any equipment themselves when required.

Brigantia Learning Trust

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Registered Office:

Hinde House 3-16 School

Shiregreen Lane

Sheffield S5 6AG

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Remote learning - Microsoft Teams

As you will be aware from previous correspondence, we are now using Microsoft Teams as our remote learning platform. This has replaced Moodle in response to feedback from parents/carers, students and staff. Students have been shown Teams in lessons and a user guide is available at www.yewlandsacademy.org/parents.

Staff are now uploading their daily class materials and resources to Microsoft Teams so all students can access them when in self-isolation or in order to go over the day's learning again.

To access Teams, students should:

1. Open a web browser such as Microsoft Edge, Google Chrome or Apple Safari and go to www.office.com.
2. Log in with their Academy email address which is their username@yewlandsacademy.org then enter their Academy password.
3. Click Teams and then select the required Team (class)
4. In the Team, **posts** are where to find messages and notifications, **files** are where the resources are stored, **assignments** are where the work is set (this could be a range of activities including homework) and **grades** is where any feedback would be located.

If you do have any issues with accessing and using Microsoft Teams, please contact us through the learningsupport@yewlandsacademy.org email address.

Y7-11 Settling-in Evening

Unfortunately, due to the current situation there cannot be a face to face settling-in evening. However, every student will receive a phone call from their tutor over the next week to check how they have settled back in to school and to answer any questions you may have. This is an important step in building the incredibly powerful relationships between the Academy and home. These conversations will centre around student well-being rather than having a subject focus at this stage but there will be opportunities throughout the year for subject specific evenings. Please log in to EduLink and check that the contact details are correct so that our tutors are able to get in touch.

Y5/Y6 Virtual Open Evening

The current circumstances also mean that our Y5 and Y6 open evening will be a virtual offer this year. As much as we love opening the Academy and showcasing all of the amazing work that goes on we are unable to do this. Instead we will be putting together a video which will show families the fantastic opportunities that will be available to their children should they choose Yewlands Academy. The video will be shared on our website, YouTube and Twitter pages on 1st October.

Supported study

To support our students the Academy will provide a supervised workspace from 3-4pm, Monday-Thursday for those students who wish to complete their homework at school (this includes access to appropriate technologies). If you would like your child to access this opportunity, please contact Lynne Codd via email LCodd@brigantiastrust.net to request a place.

Catering Menus

The Academy continues to operate with the addition of 2 new food outlets this year. This has enabled us to reduce queueing time and ensure all students have safe access to a variety of meal choices at both break and lunch times. Below is the 3-week food menu, with additional choices added weekly:

Week 1

Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday
Spicy Chicken Wrap	Lasagne & Side Salad	Meat and Potato Pie	Chicken Tikka Masala & Rice	Fish & Chips
Selection of Paninis, Jackets and fillings, cold sandwiches, tray bakes and drinks				

Week 2

Chicken Curry & Rice	Mac N Cheese Bake	Chicken & Sweetcorn pie	Bangers & Mash	Chicken Burger chips
Selection of Paninis, Jackets and fillings, cold sandwiches, tray bakes and drinks				

Week 3

Meatballs & Pasta	Chilli Con Carne & Rice	Chicken Dinner Day	BBQ Chicken Wrap	Fish Finger & Chips
Selection of Paninis, Jackets and fillings, cold sandwiches, tray bakes and drinks				

Dates for your diary

Please find below the dates for your diary. Throughout the year there will be updates and additions. Please visit our website – www.yewlandsacademy.org to view the latest version of our calendar.

Please note that Monday 4th January will be the students first day back in the Academy and is no longer a Trust training day

DATE	EVENT
Monday 28 th September 2020	Academy Advisory Council meeting from 6 – 8pm
Thursday 1 st October 2020	Virtual Year 5/6 Open Evening from 6 – 8 pm
Thursday 22 nd October 2020	Year 11 Parents Evening from 3.15 – 6.15pm
Friday 23 rd October 2020	Trust Training Day (staff only)
Monday 26 th to Friday 30 th October 2020	October Half Term
Monday 2 nd November 2020	Students return to school
Monday 16 th November 2020	Academy Advisory Council meeting from 6 – 8pm
Thursday 26 th November 2020	Year 10 Parents Evening from 3.15 – 6.15pm
Friday 18 th December 2020	End of Term – students will finish at 1.20pm
Monday 21 st December 2020 to Friday 1 st January 2021	Christmas Holidays
Monday 4 th January 2021	Students return to school

Heartfelt thanks for your ongoing support.

Yours faithfully



Mr Andrew Kelly
Principal