



21st October 2020

Dear Parent/Carer

I hope this letter finds our families and their loved ones well.

Breaking news

It's been publicised today that South Yorkshire is moving to Tier 3 restrictions. This does not affect educational settings and students are expected back into the Academy on Monday 2nd November.

A safe and successful half term at Yewlands Academy

It gives me great pleasure in reporting to parents/carers how incredibly proud I am of our young people this half term. Students returned to our Academy after their extended break ready to learn and have not looked back since our first day. They have thrived in their lessons and have fully adapted to our 'new normal'. I pass on my heartfelt thanks to students, parents/carers and staff for their support and hard work in enabling Yewlands Academy to deliver a safe and successful half term.

INSET days 22nd and 23rd October

Thursday 22nd and Friday 23rd October are INSET days for Yewlands staff. On Thursday 22nd October students will be expected to work remotely from home via Microsoft Teams. Years 7 – 10 will have their normal timetabled work to complete and Year 11 students will be taking part in the virtual post-16 day.

Y11 Virtual Post-16 day

On Thursday 22nd October we are excited to be hosting a virtual post-16 day for all Y11 students. This day will be the first stage in the post-16 transition process and an opportunity for students to:

- Directly ask questions to a careers' advisor
- Write the first draft of their personal statements for college/6th form/apprenticeship applications. These will be set as an assignment on Microsoft Teams and there will be clear instructions and examples that students can use to structure their work
- Watch virtual open evening/day videos for local colleges and 6th forms
- Write their CV. This will again be set as an assignment with examples of CV's to support students in writing their own

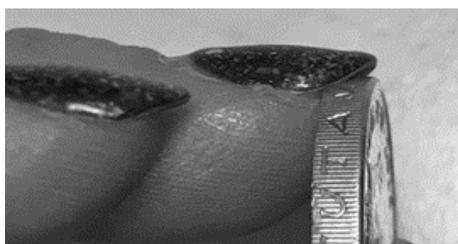
All of these opportunities will be available via Microsoft Teams and can be accessed using a mobile phone or PC/laptop. On return to the Academy after half term students will then be in a great position to start applying for their chosen colleges/6th forms/apprenticeships supported by their form tutors. Please be aware we have started this process early this year as the deadline for college applications is mid-January 2021.

Should you require any support with using Microsoft Teams please see the guidance videos on our website or email learningsupport@yewlandsacademy.org

Uniform expectations, shoes and hair colour

All our students are very much aware of our expectations regarding student dress. Please could parents/carers continue to support our high standards by ensuring that their child is in full school uniform, including appropriate footwear. It is mandatory for students to wear their blazer in the building (this can be removed in lessons). Students are expected to come to school in black trousers or appropriate length skirts, white business shirt, school tie and black shoes. As the weather gets colder, students can add a plain black jumper to their uniform, so they can dress in layers for warmth. Students must have a natural hair colour with no designs shaved into the hair or patterned hair dye, students are permitted to wear hair bands and hair bobbles, but they must be plain in colour. Students must also ensure that their nails are not of an excessive length and as a rule they should be no longer over their fingertips than the depth of a £1 coin. This allows students to access all lessons including practical lessons where long nails may be a health and safety issue.

Please could all parents/carers support the Academy in ensuring that any issues in compliance with above is rectified over the half term break.



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.

Coats in classrooms

The Academy continues to follow all guidance in relation to COVID-19. One aspect of this is the opening of windows in classrooms and offices to circulate fresh air. As the weather gets colder, I have decided as a temporary measure that students who are in their full uniform will be allowed to wear their outside coats in the main building (including in lessons) if they feel they are cold. Students are expected to wear their white shirt and blazer before putting on their outdoor coat. Please note that sweatshirts or hoodies will not be permitted in the main building. The acceptance of outdoor coats in the main building is a temporary measure to support students and staff and will be reviewed at the end of this half term.

Face masks

Face masks continue to be worn by staff and students when moving around the Academy where social distancing cannot be maintained, this includes outside classrooms, on corridors and in communal areas. When not wearing masks, they must be kept in sealable plastic bags. Please ensure your child has their mask and sealable plastic bag with them every day.

Yew Futures

In a 'normal' school year, students from Years 7 to 11 would fully undertake the Yew Futures programme and participate in visits, courses, events and activities on Enrichment Days/form time that are designed to increase their future prospects. The Yew Futures 'Opportunity and Aspiration' Programme was created to ensure students will leave Yewlands Academy with life and employability skills, making them more well-rounded job candidates and therefore give them the edge over other students their age in the city. Unfortunately, the current situation means many of the opportunities our students would normally have participated in (school trips, sports matches and 'cultural capital' experiences through museum, university and theatre visits) are now on hold. However, there has been some incredible work in one aspect of the Yew Futures programme, 'be a good neighbour in their local community'. This week students in Y7 and Y10 have written over 50 letters to the residents of Deerlands Care Home in Parson Cross. Staff and students aimed to add some cheer to the elderly community at a time when they have limited visitors and may be feeling more alone than normal. We are immensely proud of the messages of love and support that our students have conveyed with the older members of our community and I know these will have been warmly received.

Parent Forum

The Academy is keen to continue to work closely with parents/carers to help shape the future of the Academy. I acknowledge the important role parents/carers play in supporting our children. The Academy has a Parent Forum and we would like to encourage further representation from those who have children currently at the school. The forum acts as a platform for you to be part of a focused and constructive discussion group with the aim of strengthening the voice of parents/carers. The forum allows you to share your views, ask questions, give feedback about initiatives and find out more about school life. Involvement in the forum is less formal and requires less commitment than being a governor, whilst still enabling you to make a real contribution to the school and network with others. We plan to meet once a term, after school for approximately one hour. To register your interest, please contact Lynne Codd by email at lcodd@brigantiastrust.net or by calling on 0114 2329010 ext.1022 by Friday 6th November.

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
Friday 23 rd October 2020	Trust Training Day (staff only)
Monday 26 th October 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
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

I wish all of our students and their families a safe half term break. Thank you for ongoing support.

Yours faithfully



Mr Andrew Kelly
Principal