

5<sup>th</sup> January 2021

Dear Parent / Carer,

I wrote to you last week following the Government's announcement just before the New Year about when pupils would return to school this term.

I am sorry to be writing to you again so soon on this subject. However, as you may have seen, the Prime Minister has this last night announced a new national lockdown because of rising infection rates of Covid-19 and to try to prevent the further spread of the virus.

As part of this, all primary schools, secondary schools and colleges in England, including our school, Outwood Academy Adwick, are to be closed from this morning until at least the end of half term in February, except for children of key workers or vulnerable children. Early years settings remain open.

The Prime Minister also announced that "not all exams" would go ahead as normal this year and that there would be alternative arrangements. He said the Government would set out further details on this at a later date, and when that information is announced, we will update parents of students due to take exams this year. In the meantime ALL pupils must engage with their online learning via Google Classroom.

**From this morning:**

**If you or your partner is a key worker, or if your child is classed as vulnerable, then the school will remain open**, as now, and we look forward to seeing them in school today and beyond as normal for teaching and learning.

As you know, we have worked incredibly hard since the start of the pandemic in March to keep our school as safe as possible, and I would like to take this opportunity to remind you of the safety measures in place at our school:

- All students and staff must wear a face covering in communal areas, unless exempt
- Everyone is expected to remain in their allocated bubbles
- Students are encouraged to wash their hands regularly throughout the day

Please note we are trying to work with windows open in classrooms for ventilation. As the cold days have returned, and with the need for ventilation in mind, pupils may need a few more layers of clothing, and with this we have made the decision that students will not be required to wear their usual academy uniform.

**For all other pupils, our school is closed until at least the end of the February half-term.** High-quality remote learning will be provided to make sure they continue to receive a consistent education. We know that this places pressure on you at a difficult time but your support in helping your child engage with the remote learning packs as much as possible is so important and we are very grateful for it.

Students will be able to access lessons online using their Google classrooms. This system has been tried, tested and refined with our students and when it has needed to be implemented in recent weeks' attendance and engagement has been exceptional. Students should sign into

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their Google classroom at their usual school start time; Year 7 8:25, Year 8 8:25, Year 9 8:45, Year 10 8:45, Year 11 8:25 and Post-16 8:25. Once signed in to Google Classroom students will find the links to access their lessons which will reflect their usual subjects timetable, with live delivery allowing them to interact with their teachers. It is our aim to offer a provision which reflects as close as possible to what students would get in class.

In order for parents/carers to support their children at home, we have created a Home Learning webpage which provides you with guidance on how to access Google Classroom with your child. You can access this at <https://bit.ly/ADWICKOLP>.

All students have been shown how to access Google Classroom and we have checked that they have their login and password details. Students have been given a sticker with this information which will be in their planner. Should you need any support with Google Classroom or internet access then please contact our enquiries team by emailing [Enquiries@adwick.outwood.com](mailto:Enquiries@adwick.outwood.com).

We will continue to stay in touch with you on this matter, and about your child's education. However, do let me know if you would like to discuss this matter, or if you require any support relating to these new arrangements.

I would once again like to take this opportunity to thank you wholeheartedly for your understanding and ongoing support in helping us to manage this unprecedented situation. Please continue to take care and to stay safe.

Yours sincerely,



Andy Scruby  
Principal  
Outwood Academy Adwick