

Tuesday 5th 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 yesterday 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, are to be closed from 5th January until at least the end of half term in February, except for children of critical 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.

If you or your partner is a critical 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 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 and to use hand sanitiser regularly

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, such as a jumper, tights or leggings underneath skirts or plain fleeces without a hood or large brand logos.

For all other pupils, our school is closed until at least the end of the February half-term. High-quality remote learning is being 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.

From Wednesday 6th January the timetable is as follows:

Lesson 1 and 2 : 8.40am to 10.40am

Break : 10.40am -11.00am

Lesson 3 and 4: 11.00am- 1.00pm

Lunch : 1.00pm- 1.30pm

Lesson 5 : 1.30pm- 2.30pm

This week is week 2 on the timetable.

Please note that if students have not accepted their google classrooms that they will not see any work. Similarly, some students have removed themselves from classrooms which also shows them as having no work set.

If you have any concerns about work being set for your son/ daughter or have an issue with a google password, please contact google@danum.outwood.com for further support.

Your son's/ daughter's Learning Manager, Teaching Assistant or Attendance Officer will be making regular contact with you/ them to ensure that everything is going well with home learning.

We have sent out text messages previously with a link to a google survey form for parents to complete if students do not have access to IT equipment. The link to this form is [here](#). Please complete this by Friday 8th January if you have not completed this previously but have an issue in supplying a computer or tablet for your son/ daughter to use whilst learning from home.

We are wholly committed to helping the students we work with to have the very best education and life chances. We will continue to provide the very best education remotely or in the academy for all. Please let us know if you have any questions by emailing enquiries@danum.outwood.com.

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 faithfully,



Mrs J Gaunt

Principal
Outwood Academy Danum