



LYDIARD PARK ACADEMY

10th July 2020

Dear Parent,

“You can’t go back and change the beginning, but you can start where you are and change the ending.” C.S. Lewis.

This academic year comes to an end next Friday and in many ways, it has been the most surreal year which has set so many challenges for pupils, parents and staff. I am very proud of the way that the Lydiard Park Academy community has risen to these challenges and feel that we are in a good place to plan for the future. As the quote from C.S. Lewis outlines we can’t change the beginning and if we knew in March what we know now, we would have certainly prepared differently. However, we have been on an incredible learning journey over the last four months and now know we are in a position to use what we have learnt to prepare for September and we plan to have an exciting year full of wonderful opportunities.

When the Government guidance was issued last week our rationale behind our planning was to firstly, keep everyone as safe as possible and secondly, to be able to maintain the proposed ‘normal’ timetable for all pupils allowing them a broad and balanced curriculum. This would not marginalise any subject and would allow pupils in KS3 to make informed decisions about their options and future pathways. For KS4 and 5 pupils it would allow them to complete their courses in their respective GCSEs, Vocational courses and A-Levels.

Year group ‘bubbles’

So, in order to achieve these two aims we will need to keep year groups and the sixth form as distinct ‘bubbles’ within the school and restrict the mixing of bubbles. Staff will need to mix bubbles but this is unavoidable. Therefore, different year groups, as indicated below, will have distinct blocks with allocated toilets in that block and a ‘venue’ for breaks and lunch time. (Some specialist rooms will be kept free and allocated to groups with cleaning of the rooms in between use by different bubbles)

Year 7: Top of B Block with the Large Atrium as their break/lunchtime venue, toilets in PE corridor. Pupils will walk down stairs by field and through PE corridor to their venue.

Year 8: Maths block with the NSH as their break and lunchtime venue. Pupils will walk straight down the stairs into the venue. Toilets used Maths Block

Year 9: Art and C Block with OSH as their break/lunchtime venue. Pupils from C Block walk outside by field. From Art around the front of the school. Toilets used D block corridor near photography. When we return in September the OSH will be initially out of use due to construction work so the NSH will be portioned into two.

Year 10: B Block downstairs (including drama studio), Drama Theatre break/lunchtime venue, indoor drama corridor

***Year 11:** Science upstairs D Block, break/lunchtime venue will be the Small Atrium, toilets D Block corridor nearest art. To access the venue pupils will come down the stairs by art rooms.



Executive Principal: Mr C Zimmerman
Operational Principal: Mr G Pearson
Vice Principal: Miss S Hesten

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Sixth Form: Mainly taught in S Block although specialist rooms will be needed, toilets in S Block and next to common room which will be their venue.

*Year 10 and 11 blocks may be swapped in certain weeks based on the need for science practicals being greater in Year 10.

As the year group will be treated as a 'bubble' it will mean that pupils can be in different classes for their different subjects.

Timings of the school day

Due to the need to keep the 'bubbles' separate especially at the start and end of the day; the school day will need to change starting at 8.20am and finishing at 3.10pm with different start and end times for the different year groups highlighted below:

- Year 7:** Start at 8.20am, leave at 2.30pm
- Year 8:** Start at 8.30am, leave at 2.40pm
- Year 9:** Start at 8.40am, leave at 2.50pm
- Year 10:** Start at 8.50am, leave at 3.00pm
- Year 11:** Start at 9.00am, leave at 3.10pm
- Sixth form:** Start at 8.40am, leave at 3.00pm.

All pupils should report to their venue on arrival and not wander around the school.

Please could I stress that pupils should aim to arrive in their time window, so for example Year 8 pupils should aim to arrive between 8.20am and 8.30am. Therefore, pupils should know how long their journey takes to get to school and plan to leave home at the appropriate time. Siblings who arrive together who are in different year groups should aim to arrive for the earliest start time and go their separate venues on arrival. I know that may cause difficulty for some parents and if arrangements cannot be made to arrive at this time please contact the school and we will see how your request to arrive outside of the window can be accommodated.

PPE and action in the event of a case of COVID-19

- Any pupil or member of staff experiencing symptoms should not come into school and they should arrange for a COVID19 test and notify the school of the result.
- In line with the DFE guidance there is currently no requirement for staff or pupils (unless using the school bus or public transport) to wear PPE. The only time staff are required to wear PPE is during a first aid scenario.
- There will be hand sanitiser on entry to the venues and hand washing facilities in the toilets.
- There will be an enhanced cleaning regime with 'fogging' used to supplement the cleaning regime.
- Pupils will be reminded of the guidance on a regular basis.



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- In the event of a suspected case of COVID-19 Public Health England will be contacted and their advice will be followed.
- The school will provide tissues and a tissue bin for each room and promote the use of 'catch it, bin it, kill it'.

Uniform, equipment and book

All pupils will need to wear full school uniform.

All pupils should bring their own equipment which includes:

- Pencil case
- Green pens
- Black pens
- Pencil and rubber
- Coloured pencils
- Highlighters
- Ruler, protractor, compass
- Scissors
- Glue stick
- Calculator
- Reading books
- Hand gel

Behaviour

Obviously, we will be expecting the highest standards of behaviour however; detentions will still take place after school and will be carried out in bubbles. The school has amended the behaviour policy and I will send this out separately next week.

PE

A separate PE letter will be sent out by the PE department but essentially PE will occur for all year groups but this will be restricted to outdoor activities. Contact sports are not allowed at this time.

School buses

We are working with Ellisons to ensure that the bus provision is as safe as possible and pupils will be given an allocated seat to sit in with pupils grouped into year groups. As the bus arrives early then pupils will need to report to their venues on arrival. Pupils will be expected to bring a face covering to wear on the bus. This should then be removed and stored in their bags during the school day.

I am pleased to announce that the 'Think of the Other Person' Community award goes to Nadine P in Year 11. During lockdown Nadine painted over 30kg of rocks and pebbles which she left out on daily walks for others to find and keep. She has regularly helped her 2 sisters with their schoolwork and cooks for the family during the week. She has also baked cakes and delivered these to local neighbours. She has made the effort to regularly chat to our elderly neighbour who lives alone and has also shopped for them. The award is well deserved, well done Nadine.



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I appreciate that there is a lot to take in with regard to all pupils returning to school and we are in the process of writing a new Risk Assessment which I will also send to parents next week. This will give more details on the safe running of the school. If you do have any questions regarding pupils returning in September please get in contact at ask@lydiardparkacademy.org.uk.

Kind regards

Mr Pearson
Principal



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