

### **Important Information 2021-22**

Dear Parents/Carers,

I would like to start my letter by thanking you for your cooperation and flexibility over the last year. The students have been a credit to you and your efforts with home schooling have been greatly appreciated, all our staff with children know exactly how hard that has been at times.

I would like to give you several updates as we get close to finishing the summer term and look forward to welcoming all students back in September.

#### **Sports Fest**

Our annual fun sporting event returns this year and will take place on Tuesday 20<sup>th</sup> July, 2021. Students will need to come to school in their PE kit, please ensure they bring a water bottle, along with suntan lotion and a hat/cap if necessary. We are maintaining our year group bubbles for this event.

#### **End of term arrangements**

Our last day of term is Wednesday 21<sup>st</sup> July, 2021. Students will attend our virtual celebration assembly at 11:20am in their form room with their form tutor. They will be dismissed from approximately 12:20pm. Students who are entitled to free school meals and want to take up their lunch entitlement will need to let their form tutor know by Thursday 15<sup>th</sup> July and a packed lunch will be provided for them.

#### **Start of term arrangements**

Students are to return to school as follows:

- Monday 6<sup>th</sup> September 2021: Year 9 and Year 12 only: 8:30am
- Tuesday 7<sup>th</sup> September 2021: Year 10, Year 11 and Year 13: 8:30am

We are currently planning for students to access all of their learning in specialist classrooms in a way they would have expected before the Covid 19 pandemic. Tutor time will return back to the start of the day – 8.30am – 9.00am.

#### **Behaviour and Uniform Expectations**

The Academy has high standards and expectations, and this supports the running of an outstanding school. Firstly, it is crucial to ensure that the uniform expectations have been met. We will insist on students meeting full uniform requirements. We do not want uniform to be a barrier to learning in September. Please ensure that hairstyles are not extreme including obvious unnatural hair colours and hair styles displaying cuts below a grade 2 (for example skin fades). Fake lashes and nails will not be accepted, the students will be placed in the re-focus facility out of the main body of the school if these are not removed. Hoodies are not to be worn to school and used as a jacket. If hoodies are brought into the Academy either being worn over or under the blazer, they will be confiscated.

At RSA Academy Arrow Vale we have a clear mobile phone policy. Any phone seen out on the school grounds will be confiscated and parents will be required to collect the phone.

We understand that parents may wish for their child to have a phone for safety reasons, but we ask when safely on site they are turned off and placed into the student's bag before entering the school. This rule applies whilst walking into and out of the Academy.

The conduct of our students before school, during school and after school is crucial and this means we expect the students to represent themselves and the Academy, adhering to the same expectations and standards irrespective of where they are.

**Continued....**

### **PE Kit**

On the days that students have core PE or practical sports lessons; students should wear full PE kit. Plain black jogging bottoms will be accepted, however hoodies will not. Our preferred school uniform suppliers are Orchard Clothing, contact them via telephone on 0845 208 0471 or visit their website [www.orchardclothing.co.uk](http://www.orchardclothing.co.uk)

### **Sixth Form Dress Code**

As a school we have high expectations of our Sixth Form, as we aim to develop mature, independent young adults that fulfil their potential. The Sixth Form uniform is a basic standard of dress suitable for a professional environment, smart office wear, so shirt, tie and trousers for the gentlemen and blouse, knee length skirt or trousers for the ladies.

### **EduLink One Push Notifications**

Please can I also take this opportunity to encourage students and parents to turn on push notifications on the EduLink One App. By doing this, you will receive important updates about school and also about your child's home learning and progress.

### **Safeguarding**

Safeguarding our students is our number one priority. In September, all of the normal Safeguarding arrangements will be in place:

- Designated Safeguarding Lead on site or contactable remotely at all times of the working day
- Staff Training up to date
- Electronic Reporting system active
- Close partnerships with Safeguarding Partners: Police, Health and Children's Social Care
- Risk Assessment in place for COVID-19

In our final assembly before the summer we would normally ask our students to keep themselves safe. Safe in terms of water hazards; safe online; safe and healthy relationships; safe behaviour choices etc. We kindly ask (as appropriate), that you remind your child of anything pertinent yourselves. Our website contains lots of safeguarding information, plus signposting to a range of external services, including some new ones that have emerged during the COVID-19 crisis. Please do have a browse of the website to familiarise yourselves with these.

Finally, If you have reason to believe that a child, young person or adult is at immediate risk from harm contact the Police:

- telephone: 999

If you have any concerns about a child or young person living in Worcestershire and feel that they may be in need of protection or safeguarding contact the Family Front Door. Staff are available Monday to Thursday from 9.00am to 5.00pm and Fridays from 9.00am to 4.30pm:

- telephone: 01905 822666

For assistance out of office hours (weekdays and all day at weekends and bank holidays):

- telephone: 01905 768020

### **Free School Meal Arrangements**

The Government have confirmed that they will continue to support families who are in receipt of Free School Meals throughout the Summer Holidays.

For those parents who use the Eden Red online system, your holiday e-code will be ready for redemption on Monday 19th July. It is important that you check that you have received your e-code and redeem this to an e-Gift card (via [www.freeschoolmeals.co.uk](http://www.freeschoolmeals.co.uk)) before the end of term and report any issues to the school via our office email [office@arrowvaleacademy.co.uk](mailto:office@arrowvaleacademy.co.uk) by Tuesday 20th July so we can support you before the school office closes.

For those parents who receive their e-Gift card via post direct from the school, please inform the school office if you have not received yours by Tuesday 20th July. Please note that whilst you will have these vouchers before the end of term, they are for whole of the 6 weeks Summer Holidays. Each family will receive £85 per child.

### **Parents Information Booklet**

The Parents Information Booklet can be found on our website and contains useful information for both Students and Parents. You can also click on this link <https://www.arrowvaleacademy.co.uk/parents/information-booklet/>

### **Lateral Flow Tests**

We have been advised by the Government that there are **no requirements** for students to continue with home testing over the summer holidays. We will however provide them with a testing kit, should you have use for it over the break. Arrangements for September will be communicated before students return to school.

On a final note, I hope you are all able to enjoy the well-deserved summer break. Please stay safe and I look forward to welcoming all children back in September to continue our work together.

Yours sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Ian Mellor', written in a cursive style.

Ian Mellor  
Principal