

Dear parent/carer,

We hope that all our families have had an enjoyable and safe summer. As we reach the end of August, it is now time to look forward and think about the return to school in September

The start of this academic year brings exciting developments, as the academy officially becomes Carlton Keighley and formally joins the Carlton Academy Trust. This means becoming part of a wider family of schools which places a high premium on pupil outcomes, and developing the whole child by ensuring that our children have every opportunity to be successful. Support from the Carlton Academy Trust has already helped the academy secure a 'Good' rating from Ofsted and some of our best examination results ever.

This academic year also sees the removal of some of the restrictions that have been in place as a result of the Covid pandemic, which will hopefully result in a much less disrupted time in school for our students.

There are some steps that schools must continue to take to keep all members of our community safe. One of these measures is the continued use of lateral flow tests to identify any potential cases of Covid and minimise further spread of the virus. The government has requested that students who have consented should receive two in-school tests on their return to school in September to identify any cases at the start of term.

In order to do this, schools are allowed to stagger the start of the new term over 5 days to accommodate additional testing. The new academic year was due to begin for all pupils on Thursday 2nd September, however to respond to these changes, we have amended the start dates for students across year groups as outlined below:

Year	Thursday 2nd September	Friday 3rd September	Monday 6th September	Tuesday 7th September
Year 7	Return to school - Transition Day	Lessons as normal (testing onsite)	Lessons as normal	Lessons as normal
Year 11	Student onsite for testing only	Return to school	Lessons as normal	Lessons as normal
Year 10	At home	Student onsite for testing only	Return to school	Lessons as normal
Year 9	At home	At home	Return to school (testing onsite)	Lessons as normal
Year 8	At home	At home	Student onsite for testing only	Return to school

Students should arrive at school on their first day back ready to begin school at the normal time of 8:25am. They should be in full school uniform (including proper school trousers and school shoes); hair should be natural in colour with no lines and students should return with lanyards to be worn at all times. Where students are just attending for testing only, you will receive your child's appointment time by post.

Consent:

Children under the age of 16 must have parental consent to undertake testing. For students in Years 8-11 who have previously given consent for testing, this will remain in place. If you will like to amend testing consent, either to remove or add your child to the list, please contact the school via studentprogress@uak.email. For families in Year 7, you will receive a consent form on the first day of school for your child to undertake on-site Covid testing; this will need returning on the following day.

Following the initial two tests in school, students should continue to test themselves twice weekly at home; this will be reviewed at the end of September

Other Covid Routines in September:

From September, it is no longer required for students to wear face coverings in school. This will allow students and teachers to have much clearer interactions in lessons. The use of 'bubbles' in school is also removed, and students will be able to move around school, including to specialist teaching classrooms in a calm, orderly and focused manner. Both these changes will help improve the educational experience for all our learners.

Attendance in school is incredibly important; there are clear links between high student attendance and positive student outcomes and well-being. From September, students will no longer be required to self-isolate if they are a close contact of someone who has tested positive for Covid. Students should only not attend school for Covid-related reasons if they themselves test positive. We hope this change will minimise the disruption to in-school learning and positively impact on the attendance of all students.

If any of these changes pose a concern, a colleague in school is happy to discuss this with you. Please contact the school via 01535 210 333 or office@uak.email

For September, our expectation for all students is that they attend school every day, giving 100% effort, 100% of the time. Students must be 'Ready to Learn' and show ambition by focusing and engaging well with all elements of school life. Pupils should be resilient and keep working when things are challenging. Pupils at Carlton Keighley treat everybody in our school community with respect and show kindness to all.

We look forward to welcoming all our students back to school for the new academic year.

With thanks,

Mr Turvey
Head of School