

1st April 2021

Dear Parent/Carer

As we reach the end of the spring term, I write to thank you for your support with what has been a successful return to school for students. The pandemic as we know has been difficult; we have had to face a number of challenges that have affected learning. We have had some difficult times that were tough, but we are now finally seeing a beacon of light at the end of this long dark tunnel. The focus must now be on recovery, to ensure that students are not disadvantaged in the long term by the effects of this pandemic.

On Wednesday 24th March, the academy welcomed Ofsted inspectors for a monitoring visit. The purpose of the visit was to ensure that the academy was taking effective management of the return to school from lockdown and has put in the necessary actions to improve outcomes for all children. The visit was conducted remotely and as a result of this, the findings will not alter the grading the academy receives. I am pleased with how the inspection went and many positive comments were made. I look forward to sharing the report with you when it is published.

As we continue to drive our academy forward, I wish to take this opportunity to remind students and families of our expectations. These expectations are not new and were the same prior to lockdown. These expectations form the foundation of success and will support the academy as we continue to improve.

Studies have shown that students that attend school everyday, who take pride in their appearance, and are well equipped, prepared and punctual for their lessons continue with these good practices later in life. These are the qualities and mindset of successful people and those we wish to nurture and encourage for your child.

1. Attendance & Punctuality

It is now compulsory for all children to return to school, unless they are self-isolating due to coming into contact with a positive case of Covid. Attending school everyday and arriving to lessons on time is essential as we work on recovering the learning loss from this pandemic. It is essential that your child attends school every day that the academy is open, and be punctual to all lessons. Joining a lesson late is disruptive to the class, and results in your child missing important instructions to the start of the lesson. Did you know that being 5 minutes late to lessons every day in a school year equates to 3 days of lost learning? 30 minutes late each day equates to 19 days of lost learning and students in this category performs a whole grade below peers that attend on time.

2. Academy Uniform

I am continually pleased with the high number of children at the academy whose uniform meets our uniform policy and guidelines. However, we have had some students that have not returned in correct uniform, including incorrect footwear, hoodies and non-uniform sportswear. Please be reminded that sportswear, trainers or leisure shoes are not accepted as academy uniform. I ask please that families ensure correct school shoes and uniform are purchased over the break as shops re-open, ready for the start of Term 5. This also includes smart business wear for our Sixth Form students; please see the dress code policy for sixth form students on our website.

Principal – Miss Tina Lee

Executive Principal – Mr Ian Simpson

Minster Campus: Minster Road, Minster-on-Sea, ME12 3JQ
Sheerness Campus: Marine Parade, Sheerness, Kent, ME12 2BE
Tel. 01795 873 591

www.oasisacademyisleofsheppey.org

These are some examples of **unacceptable** footwear that might help guide shopping during the break.



Students will continue to arrive in school in their academy PE kit on the days they have PE. The academy PE kit is compulsory for all and is available to purchase from the uniform shop in school.

The academy manages the sale of uniform in school as this enables us to sell items at cost price as we are a non-profit organisation. Please see our website for uniform and PE kit prices. We also have a small selection of good condition donated uniform items. Please contact the school office if you require uniform items.

3. Coronavirus Face Masks

I would again like to thank all families for their support in helping to keep the academy safe. You are now aware we have a compulsory policy that students wear masks in school. Student response to this has been incredibly positive and when they have these on them, students wear their masks well. Can I ask please that you ensure your child has a mask ready to wear for the new term. The academy is and continues to work incredibly hard to keep everybody safe; please help us continue to do this. Thank you.

4. Basic Equipment

It is important that students arrive to school organised, with the necessary equipment to be prepared and ready to learn. Every student is expected to arrive to school everyday with a school bag that is appropriate for school. This is particularly important when children are provided with laptops and iPads to enhance their learning and require a suitable bag to hold this safely.

All students should also have pencil case, a water bottle and a reading book. Pencil cases should include an assortment of pens (blue, black and green), pencils, rubber, ruler, and a scientific calculator.

Principal – Miss Tina Lee

Executive Principal – Mr Ian Simpson

Minster Campus: Minster Road, Minster-on-Sea, ME12 3JQ
Sheerness Campus: Marine Parade, Sheerness, Kent, ME12 2BE
Tel. 01795 873 591

www.oasisacademyisleofsheppey.org

5. Mobile Phones

Mobile phones are not allowed to be seen or used throughout the day. We have been reminding children of this over the term. There is no use, or need for them in learning time and we want students to be free from the potential stress and pressure of mobile technology and communications. It is vital now lockdown is easing that children develop good habits again. I ask please that any communication you need to make with your child(ren) you deliver to your child's Head of Year who will make the necessary communication for you. We expect these to be vital and/or emergency pieces of information so that they do not disturb your child's learning, or that of others. Please see the academy website for contact details for your child's Year Team.

6. Lunches/Water Bottle

As communicated to you recently, the academy has aligned lunchtime for students to enable all children to have lunch at the same time. This allows an increase in capacity for adult supervision of children during this time which is necessary for safeguarding purposes. Children will remain in their year group bubbles for lunch as catering staff bring lunch to the children in their areas.

As the weather gets warmer, it is essential that your child brings in a refillable water bottle as we do not currently have the facilities to sell drinks due to the pandemic and the catering challenges this has brought.

7. Lateral Flow Tests

We have now come to the end of Covid testing in school. These have gone well and students that have had tests in school are now confident of taking the test at home. They will be given lateral flow self-test kits to continue testing at home. Parents are not required to inform us of negative results, however positive results needs to be reported to us in the first instance so that we may track and trace those that have come into contact with your child. This should be reported either by calling the academy on 01795 87359, via email to office@oasisisleofsheppey.org, or calling our safeguarding number 07496 736 447 when the academy is closed.

8. Car Park

We are fortunate that we have sufficient grounds at the academy for parents to come onto site to drop their child off in the morning and to pick up at the end of the day. However, we have received a number of complaints from local residents that some parents are obstructing driveways as they wait for children at the end of the day. We ask parents to be considerate to others as you wait for your child. Please come onto the school site and park in one of the many spaces in the lower car park. We ask that you do not park anywhere on the bus circle as parking in this area causes obstruction to the buses. We also ask that you do not double park alongside parked vehicles in the carpark as this causes congestion as well as blocking cars from leaving site. Please note that cars double-parked in the car park will be asked to move. We thank you for your co-operation so that we can ensure a swift and safe end to the day for all.

9. Electric Scooters

We have seen an increase in the number of students riding electric scooters to school and wish to take this opportunity to inform parents that electric scooters are not permitted in school. The law states that it is illegal to ride electric scooters on public roads, on pavements, in cycle lanes and in pedestrian-only areas. The reason for this is that electric scooters are currently classed as "Personal Light Electric Vehicles" and as such falls under the same laws and regulations that apply to all motor vehicles. We will contact home for any child that rides an electric scooter to school and ask that parents come to collect the scooter and arrange an alternative way home for their child.

Principal – Miss Tina Lee

Executive Principal – Mr Ian Simpson

Minster Campus: Minster Road, Minster-on-Sea, ME12 3JQ

Sheerness Campus: Marine Parade, Sheerness, Kent, ME12 2BE

Tel. 01795 873 591

www.oasisacademyisleofsheppey.org

As children finish for the end of term, the Easter break will continue to be a busy time at the academy. In addition to a number of intervention sessions to give Year 11 students greater opportunities to work towards grades they can be proud of, we will be seeing a number of physical transformations. As part of the academy refurbishment programme, we have commissioned the installation of facilities that will bring greater enjoyment for students during social times. This will include a number of table tennis tables in every courtyard, additional picnic seating and canopied areas as well as the purchase of a number of outdoor games. These installations will be complete and ready for children to enjoy as they return for the summer term.

Sadly, the end of term will also be the time when we say goodbye to staff. Mr Ian Simpson joined our leadership team as Executive Principal in September. During his time with us, he has made a significant impact in the academy's development and we wish him all the best as he takes up his new post leading another academy trust.

Finally, thank you for taking the time to read this lengthy letter, however I feel the messages are important as we begin the recovery process post pandemic. I wish you and your family a restful break, and we look forward to welcoming students back on Monday 19th April for the start of a busy and productive term.

Yours faithfully

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Tina Lee".

Tina Lee
Principal

Principal – Miss Tina Lee

Executive Principal – Mr Ian Simpson

Minster Campus: Minster Road, Minster-on-Sea, ME12 3JQ
Sheerness Campus: Marine Parade, Sheerness, Kent, ME12 2BE

Tel. 01795 873 591

www.oasisacademyisleofsheppey.org