

Ref: GDZ

20 November 2020

Dear Parent/Carer

I hope you are well and all also keeping your families safe.

As part of the academy's drive to continuously improve and support all students to excel, we have developed our use of technology to deliver lessons to meet the demands rising from COVID-19. This has enabled students who are self-isolating at home to access their normal lessons via Google Classroom, ensuring they do not fall behind in their learning.

Thank you to all the parents who have contacted us to tell us how engaging the online learning is and how pleased they are that the academy is working hard to support students who are self-isolating. Your positivity really does mean a great deal to teachers during these difficult times.

Improvements to our Behaviour Provision

As an academy, we would like to take advantage of the effectiveness of this new technology to provide further support for students who make poor behaviour choices and spend time in the Reflections Room. For the first time ever, we have an opportunity to access all classroom lessons remotely; meaning every student can benefit from their teacher's expertise, even if they are not in the classroom themselves. It is our intention to utilise this resource for all Reflection Room sessions, to provide students with live-lessons which we hope will accelerate their learning and make it easier for them to reintegrate back into lessons at the earliest opportunity.

As an additional layer, for the very few students who struggle to engage in learning and are also unable to successfully learn in the Reflections Room, we are appointing a behavioural specialist who will work on essential life-skills to enable students to take advantage of the opportunities the academy offers. These sessions will take place prior to completing learning in the Reflections Room, and will prepare students with all the skills they need to succeed.

It is also our intention to provide a bespoke learning package for students who would benefit from an alternative curriculum programme, in the short term, to rebuild their confidence and re-engage them in learning. This will be offered at the Post-16 centre where invited students will undertake a range of alternative learning experiences that cater for their individual needs. The Outwood Post-16 Centre in Worksop is a recognised centre of excellence where students from all backgrounds are inspired to excel, it is our hope that this environment will reveal new opportunities for students and inspire them to pursue highly challenging career aspirations.

All of these interventions will start from Monday, 23rd November 2020, I understand this is a change that students, parents and staff were not expecting and is happening quickly. However, we feel now is the time to take full advantage of the technological developments introduced to deal with the COVID-19 pandemic, as well as providing new packages for students who are all receiving a very different level of education than previous years.

Thank you for your continued support.

Yours faithfully

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'G Dzoboku', enclosed within a circular scribble.

Mr G Dzoboku
Principal