

Sunday 20th March 2022

Dear Parent/Carer

Year 9 online learning: Due to high levels of staff absence

Unfortunately, absence due to COVID-19 is still having an impact on the attendance of staff at Outwood Academy Portland. It is with regret that we have had to make the decision to move to online lessons for Year 9. At this moment in time, exceptional levels of staff absence means that we cannot safely accommodate all students in the school.

Year 9 will access their lessons from home on **Monday 21st March 2022**. This is not a decision that we have taken lightly and sincerely wish that there was a way in which we could keep all of our students in school, however, we cannot do this without compromising the safety and quality of lessons. Last week, we implemented combined classes and had staff from other Outwood academies in to support in an attempt to keep our students in school and in classrooms.

The health, safety and welfare of our students, staff, families and the community are at the forefront of the decisions we make as a school. We intend that **Year 9 will return on Tuesday 22nd March 2022**.

Home Learning

We have a plan in place for home learning via Google Classroom. Students should be up and learning by 8:25am each morning and they should log into Google Classroom and follow their normal timetable for the week by visiting the correct classrooms at the correct times. Some lessons may be live, some pre-recorded and some will have work posted for students to complete. Pens and paper are essential and can be available for you to pick up at school if needed.

All students have been shown how to access Google Classroom and we have checked that they have their login and password details. Should students need any support with Google Classroom please email enquiries@portland.outwood.com detailing the student name and issue. If your child does not have access to a computer please notify the academy. Paper based work packs will also be available for collection from reception.

Free School Meals

We have support available for families of students in receipt of free school meals in the form of a food parcel. Please let us know, by completing the following form [Food parcel request form](#)

Vulnerable and Key Worker

If you are a key worker and are unable to make arrangements for your child to be looked after - please visit our website and complete the [Key Worker form](#) so that we know to expect them in school. Please be clear on the days that they will be in school, and please contact the school immediately should this change so that we can ensure that your child is recorded in the register appropriately.

Finally, I would like to take this opportunity to thank you for your continued support during this time.

Yours faithfully,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "D Sheehan". The signature is written in a cursive style with a small flourish at the end.

Mrs D Sheehan
Principal