

Notification



OAKFIELD ACADEMY

BELIEVE AND ACHIEVE

Friday 5th March 2021

Dear Parents,

Many of you will be aware that we have started our asymptomatic screening of pupils in Years 7 and 8. Today we have identified a positive case within Year 8, and as a result, there will be an impact for some pupils and staff regarding our return to learning on site from Monday 8th March. We have followed the national guidance and following a thorough risk assessment with Public Health, they have requested the following:

Year 5: ALL Year 5 pupils are able to attend as normal from **Monday 8th March**. Providing your child is well and does not develop the symptoms of COVID-19, they can now attend the academy as normal. (8.25am via the red gate)

Year 6: ALL Year 6 pupils are able to attend as normal from **Monday 8th March**. Providing your child is well and does not develop the symptoms of COVID-19, they can now attend the academy as normal. (8.25am via the silver gate)

Year 7 (& all FLG): ALL Year 7 and FLG pupils are able to attend as normal from **Monday 8th March**. Providing your child is well and does not develop the symptoms of COVID-19, they can now attend the academy as normal. (8.35am via the red gate)

Year 8: Unfortunately, due to the number of staff requiring isolation, we will also have to close to all pupils in Year 8, however, most are not required to isolate and can continue to follow the national guidance. Please continue to access learning from home until Tuesday 16th March. The small number of Year 8 pupils that are also requested to isolate during this time have been contacted individually by the academy.

If your child is now required to isolate or learn from home and you require support for them to access IT, please contact reception or the academy email.

Whilst I fully understand this may cause anxiety amongst the academy community, I can assure you all necessary steps are being taken to minimise risk to others. The academy will again be deep cleaned and we will continue to follow our procedures to minimise contacts between different year groups. Our procedures have been shared with Public Health Somerset as part of the rapid risk assessment that schools must undertake.

Please see below a short statement from the Rising Stars team who supplied and administered our assessments on Wednesday 3rd March. Hopefully you will have seen Mr McGrath's video explaining our exasperation at the system failure that meant these assessments did not run as smoothly as we would have wanted. We will be reflecting on what our next steps are regarding this once the team at Rising Stars have completed the tasks we have set them in the wake of this situation.

I look forward to welcoming Years 5, 6 and 7 back on Monday and I am so sorry that we are now delayed in welcoming Year 8 until Tuesday 16th March.

Thank you for all your support and cooperation at this time.

Miss Emma Wilkes
Head teacher



Oakfield Academy
Information Page

Head Teacher: Miss Emma Wilkes | Chair of Governors: Ms Kate Hellard
Oakfield Academy, Oakfield Road, Frome, Somerset BA11 4JF

T: (01373) 462539/463832 E: oakfieldacademy@educ.somerset.gov.uk W: www.oakfieldacademy.co.uk
Oakfield Academy Academy Trust, Oakfield Road, Frome BA11 4JF. Company number: 07694044 registered in England.



@OakfieldAcorns

Dear All,

On the morning of March 3rd the website that Oakfield Academy used for on-line tests, MARK (<https://my.risingstarsassessment.co.uk/>) from Rising Stars and Hodder Education failed to meet standards of performance and reliability.

The failure of the site throughout the morning caused stress and frustration for teachers, parents and pupils in what is already a difficult situation. For that I would like to apologise to everyone affected.

The MARK site was affected by a change to the way the site runs. The change was put into effect at 8am in the morning.

The change was approved after a similar change had passed our testing and approval processes. The change was considered rather minor and after testing not thought to present a risk to the performance of MARK. Unfortunately as the school day progressed it became clear that the sites were unstable, despite the best efforts of our engineers to correct the situation. After a number of attempts to correct the situation the decision was made at 11.45am to reverse the 8am change. This took 20 minutes to take effect. Performance and reliability were restored to historical levels by 12.15pm.

The change that was made at 8am was designed to prepare MARK site for high demand throughout the Spring testing cycle and is part of a range of continuous improvements that we make to the sites to manage performance and ensure the sites are reliable at all times. In this case our change had a dreadful impact on Oakfield Academy testing on March 3rd, despite the best efforts of teachers to organise and manage the tests at school and at home.

Our engineers have completed an inquiry into the causes of the instability, which we now understand more fully. Measures have been put in place to ensure this does not happen again.

Kind regards,

Paul Coyne.

What to do if your child develops symptoms of COVID 19

If your child develops symptoms of COVID-19, they should remain at home for at least 10 days from the date when their symptoms appeared. Anyone with symptoms will be eligible for testing and this can be arranged via <https://www.nhs.uk/ask-for-a-coronavirus-test> or by calling 119 .

All other household members who remain well must stay at home and not leave the house for 10 days. This includes anyone in your 'Support Bubble'.

The 10-day period starts from the day when the first person in the house became ill.

Please see the link to the PHE 'Stay at Home' Guidance:

<https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/covid-19-stay-at-home-guidance/stay-at-home-guidance-for-households-with-possible-coronavirus-covid-19-infection>

Symptoms of COVID 19

The most common symptoms of coronavirus (COVID-19) are recent onset of:

- new continuous cough and/or
- high temperature and/or
- a loss of, or change in, normal sense of taste or smell (anosmia)

Recent cases in children have started with feeling nauseous or having headaches with other symptoms developing later.

How to stop COVID-19 spreading

There are things you can do to help reduce the risk of you and anyone you live with getting ill with COVID-19

Do

- wash your hands with soap and water often – do this for at least 20 seconds
- use hand sanitiser gel if soap and water are not available
- wash your hands as soon as you get home
- cover your mouth and nose with a tissue or your sleeve (not your hands) when you cough or sneeze
- put used tissues in the bin immediately and wash your hands afterwards