

WYMONDHAM HIGH ACADEMY

Principal: Mr Jonathan Rockey
Folly Road, Wymondham, Norfolk, NR18 0QT
01953 602078
Website: <https://wymondhamhigh.co.uk/>
Email: office@wh-at.net

WEEKLY NEWSLETTER

Friday 21st May 2021

Issue 14

A Word from Mr Rockey

It has been exciting this week to feel that our pre-covid standards of behaviour are returning. I have spent a good deal of time on climate walks this week, checking the “temperature” of the Academy. I am pleased to report that the overwhelming majority of children are beginning to get back into our routines. There is more work to do, of course, but through assemblies, behaviour walkthroughs and learning walks we will ensure that the standards we, and you, expect are in place. We had a huge amount of momentum before recent events and we will ensure this returns quickly, enabling the pupils to make excellent academic and social progress. I appreciate this sometimes brings the Academy and parents into conflict, but rest assured we will be ensuring that normality returns as soon as is practical.

Update on PE Changing

Following our recent communications with you regarding PE changing, I am writing to update you. Physical education is a fundamentally important activity and has historically been an important element of what we do as a school both within the curriculum and competitively. It has been fantastic to see the children outside enjoying the, mostly, good weather.

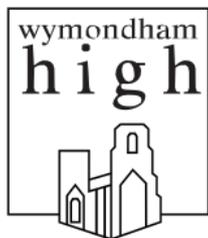
With the changes that occurred on our return to school back in September, the advice was to minimise the use of changing rooms. We have, throughout our return, gone the extra step and not used our changing facilities at all. However, this has come at a cost as we have found that this change in routine, along with other changes, have caused the children to be unsettled. I know this is something that the majority of schools are experiencing. Wearing PE kit all day, whilst reducing one issue, raises others.

We have, throughout the pandemic, followed government guidance and whilst this has not been universally popular we have considered this to be the right thing to do. The issue of changing facilities is one that is not so clear cut – there is ambiguity in the advice.

Government guidance on changing rooms has recently been updated with the relaxation of national restrictions and the reopening of leisure facilities. It focuses on taking steps to minimise time spent changing and the number of people using a changing room at any one time, whilst also increasing the

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frequency of cleaning. The guidance also states that changing facilities should not be closed unnecessarily. The above took effect on the 17th May.

With this in mind we have reviewed our COVID risk assessment relating to changing for PE and I have taken the decision to begin using the changing facilities with effect 7th June 2021. In order to do this the following arrangements will apply:

- All pupils will be expected to sanitise their hands on entry to the changing areas.
- Social distancing will be maintained with additional marking on floors and changing benches to highlight individual spaces.
- Pupils will be asked to wear a face covering whilst in the changing areas.
- If necessary, pupils will get changed in “shifts” at the beginning and end of the session to reduce numbers in the changing areas.
- A member of the cleaning team will be dedicated to cleaning the areas throughout the day and a certificated deep clean will take place once per week in both changing areas.
- If pupils have PE Session A, they may come into school wearing their kit (changing into uniform at the end of Session A).
- If pupils have PE Session C, they may leave the school campus wearing their PE kit.

We are fortunate that our recently built changing rooms are very large (110 square metres each), double the size of our largest classrooms, with ample space to maintain social distancing.

We have delayed this decision as a result of changes in the national situation and would not hesitate to revert back to existing arrangements if this were required, possibly at short notice.

Personal, Social and Health Education (PSHE)

Please find below a link to a survey on our PSHE curriculum. It should take no more than 3 minutes to complete and has space for additional comments if required. You will find a detailed explanation at the beginning of the survey. It will help us to understand and plan our curriculum for September 2021 to ensure we are providing the children with the best possible experience.

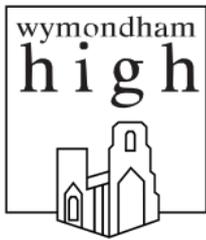
[PSHE Survey May 2021](#)

Mental Health Matters

There is a wide range of fun activities ranging from craft to mindfulness and yoga coming up over the next few weeks. Find out more about the [YAB Projects](#) coming up and sign up to get joined in. [Animals Quiz](#). [Half-term fun](#).

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Parental Communication

It is important to us to have regular and detailed communication with our community but we have recently found that communication, particularly e-mail traffic, has increased significantly. The view is that as a result of the pandemic, and with schools being partially closed, it has been vital. However, we are also experiencing a change in the nature of the communications themselves.

In the spirit of transparency, we are receiving an increasing number of e-mails whose language and demands would, in some contexts, be viewed as offensive. In response I would ask that if a matter is urgent then a phone call to the Academy is made. E-mail is a non-urgent method of communication. If a member of the Academy receives an e-mail, I have stated that they have 3 working days to respond. I would also ask that e-mails should not be sent late at night to staff as this can cause undue anxiety because action cannot be taken until the morning. Please use the "delay send" facility which is available on all e-mail systems which can delay the e-mail until the following morning. Finally, please remember that all my colleagues do the job they do because they care for the children and want to see them succeed. None of us are perfect and of course we make mistakes, and should be held to account for this when it happens, but please ensure that the language of e-mails reflects this positive intent.

School Vacancies

I would like to remind all parents that there are often vacancies within the school, advertised on our website, that we would welcome applications for, from any of you who are interested. [WHA vacancies.](#)

Does your child bike to school? Does their bike need a free maintenance check?

In partnership with 'A to Better' and 'Little Riders UK', there will be a mechanic at school on Thursday 27th & Friday 28th May providing a free maintenance check for up to 40 bikes over the 2 days. We would like to offer this service, in the first instance, to pupils who cycle to school and feel that their bike may be in need of a 'once over'. Thank you to those parents who have already expressed an interest. There are still a few places available, so if you feel that your child's bike might benefit from this service, please email principalsoffice@wh-at.net expressing your interest by **Monday 24th May**. 40 names will then be drawn from 'a hat' and an email sent to those parents whose child's bike has been selected for a service.

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