

September Opening
Parent/Student Frequently Asked Questions

1. What are the main changes that will be in place from September?

There will be a few changes in place, I have highlighted the main ones below:

- Slightly earlier start time of 08.30am
- A Welcome Point outside of the academy for each year group
- Removal of breaktime
- Earlier lunch
- Designated areas for each year group during the day
- Staggered finishes for each year group

2. What time do I need to be at school?

All students will need to be at their Welcome Point by 8.30am. Students will not be able to be on site until 8.15am.

3. Am I allowed to bring a pencil case and bag?

Yes. It is really important that you are fully prepared for learning each day. Please make sure you have the appropriate equipment.

4. Where is my Welcome Point?

Y7 - Tennis Courts (Top)
Y8 – Yard
Y9 – Yellow Quad
Y10 – Tennis Courts (Bottom)
Y11 – 'PT Classroom' through Hospitality Entrance

5. What time is lunch?

First Lunch: Y7, Y8 & Y10 (11.10am – 11.40am)

Y7: Red Corridor (PT classrooms & Tennis Courts)

Y8: Restaurant (Yard)

Y10: Theatre (Yellow Quad)

Second Lunch: Y9 & Y (12.10pm – 12.40pm)

Y9: Theatre (Yellow Quad)

Y11: Restaurant (Yard)

6. Will I be able to see my friends at lunchtime?

Yes. You will be able to socialise with your friends within your year group at lunchtime. There will also be an opportunity for you to go outside to a designated area to get some fresh air.

7. What time do I finish school?

Y7 – 2.30 (Red)
Y8 – 2.35 (Green)
Y9 – 2.40 (Yellow)
Y10 – 2.45 (Nearest Exit)
Y11 – 2.50 (Nearest Exit)

Once students have left the building, it is important that you leave site immediately. You will not be permitted to wait on site for a friend or family member from another year group. Any meeting up with other students will have to be done off the academy site.

8. Will I need to wear my uniform?

Yes. All students will wear the academy uniform as normal. No adaptations of the uniform will be needed.

9. What rooms will I be taught in?

This will be different depending on your year group. It will also be different from previous years.

Y7 – Bottom of Red Corridor
Y8 – Green Corridor
Y9 – Yellow Corridor

Y10 & Y11 will rotate between classrooms on specific days. This allows our GCSEs classes to still access specialised classrooms needed to complete their GCSE specifications.

10. Will I still be doing all my subjects?

Yes. We have worked hard with all departments to make sure each subject will be on offer. There may be so small restrictions in specific subjects due to health and safety requirements.

11. How do I order my lunch online?

From September, the academy will be cashless and you will no longer be able to top up your account with cash in the academy. There will be one machine to check your balance, but your parent/carer will need to top up their ParentPay accounts online to pre-pay for your school meals. If your parent/carer does not already have a ParentPay account, or are unable to top up online, please ask them to contact the school office, who will be able to help. There will be a mobile phone app for you to use to pre-order and pay for school meals. A letter is being sent to all parents on Wednesday 2nd September.

12. What toilets will I use?

A specific toilet block has been allocated to every year group. We will go through this with you when you return in September.

13. What do I do if I'm worried or anxious about September?

Email your Head of Year or Raising Standards Leader or send an email to the following email address (wellbeing@ormistonhorizonacademy.co.uk) and a member of staff will contact you and agree a support plan. Please remember, it is perfectly normal to bit a little nervous about returning.

14. Do I have to wear PPE?

We do understand that some parents, students, and staff may feel more comfortable if they have the option to wear a face covering on their return to school in September, including in areas where social distancing may not always be possible. Whilst not compulsory, face coverings will therefore be permitted, where appropriate, but will not necessarily be needed within the classroom where there will be social distancing and social bubbles in action. If a student does strongly feel that they would like to wear a face covering in the classroom due to a specific medical condition, then appropriate arrangements can be made. If a student does decide to wear a mask, it must be plain, unbranded and not be a scarf, snood or bandana, they will not be allowed.

15. Will extra-curricular clubs be taking place?

Yes. Extra-curricular is really important to us as an academy and we know how much you love taking part in different events. A specific extra-curricular timetable will be in place for each year group to ensure 'bubbles' do not cross over. We hope to have all our clubs starting on week beginning Monday 14th September.

16. I am worried that I have forgotten some of the work why we have been off school, what will school do to support?

A very natural concern to have but please do not worry. We will be investing a lot of time in to the curriculum and ensuring students go back through previous learning. We have also appointed some new teachers that will have the job of working with certain groups of students to support their learning. Detail plans are in place to support each year group.

17. Will I have a locker?

In the first four weeks, no students will have a locker. Unfortunately, there is too much risk of crossover between students. We will monitor this carefully and puts some plans in place after the initial opening period.

18. Will teachers be able to mark my exercise books?

Yes. It is really important that you get feedback so you can improve. Teachers will do 'live marking' in lessons. Some departments may encourage to complete your homework through Microsoft Teams or another online platform.

19. Will we need to wash our hands during the day?

Yes – this is really important. Hand sanitiser stations are now in each classroom and are also in the restaurant and Theatre. You will be encouraged by all staff to clean your hands throughout the day.

20. Will we be having assemblies?

Yes – assemblies will take place as normal. Your Head of Year & Raising Standards Leader have some really important messages for you. We want to make sure you are all happy and fully understand the changes in place.

21. How long will all this be in place for?

We don't really know, it could be six weeks or it could be longer. There will be some real positives that we can take from this that will help us improve our academy.