

1st July 2020

Dear Parent/Carer

Since March there has been a significant level of disruption to all our lives and the world in which we live. We have seen all aspects of life interrupted and have been put into a position where normal no longer exists as it did.

We are writing to you to inform you that the opening of Outwood Academy Riverside has also been affected by the ongoing situation with the Coronavirus. Please let me reassure you that Outwood Academy Riverside will open in September as planned; however, the building in which we will start our academic year will not be 100 Russell Street as intended. As you will be aware 100 Russell Street is undergoing a significant refurbishment, at the cost of over £3 million however work on the building is now not expected to be completed until the 15th December 2020.

The Government's Department for Education is leading and overseeing this refurbishment and as part of this always put in place contingency plans for any unforeseen issues that arise. As you are aware nobody could have foreseen the global pandemic and the issues that then arose because of this. We are in the fortunate position that we are still able to open in September, which has not been the case for all new schools. In September we will start our academic year in 2 Queen's Square TS2 1AA. This is located close to the train station in the centre of Middlesbrough and therefore only a short walk from Russell Street. We understand that this may cause some frustration, upset and anxiety for parents, carers and children.

2 Queen's Square is part of Middlesbrough College and has been used by their students up until recently. We will be located on the ground and first floor of the building and these spaces will be entirely separate and safeguarded from any other users of the building. The building therefore offers education accommodation including general classrooms, dining space, toilets and an outdoor yard space at the back of the building. We can assure you that this building will be fit for purpose for the interim period until 100 Russell Street is completed. It is intended that we will be based in 2 Queen's Square until the end of the first term which finishes on Thursday 17th December 2020. We will then move into 100 Russell Street over the Christmas break and students will start back on Monday 4th January 2021 at Russell Street.

As we are sure you are also aware the current Coronavirus restrictions mean that not all children are currently attending primary or secondary schools to allow for a phased return, ensuring social distancing measures remain in place wherever possible. We believe, based on the most recent information, that it is likely we will be returning in September and so for Outwood Academy Riverside this means all students should be able to attend as we only have the one year group. We will of course keep you informed if guidance changes.

We understand the anxiety and apprehension that goes along with many months of being faced with so many things that are unknown or different to what we view as normal. What you can be certain of, in such a world of uncertainty, is that we will look after your children and we will do whatever we can to ensure that your child is supported at every step of the way.

This is an exciting time for your children as they are not only moving to year 7, but they are the first students to attend Outwood Academy Riverside, Middlesbrough's first free school. This is an excellent opportunity to create a school, which is much more than the building: Outwood Academy Riverside will be about the community and the family that we will create together to ensure all students receive the best education, opportunity and life chances.

We will of course have further updates over the coming weeks. If you feel that you would like to speak with a member of staff in person then please contact a.mcneill@riverside.outwood.com who will arrange for someone to contact you. Please ensure that we have your up to date contact details to be able to do this.

We are really looking forward to meeting you and your children in September.

Yours faithfully



Miss A Howe
Principal



Mr M Hassack
Executive Principal