

2 March 2021

Dear Parent or Carer,

I would like to offer my thanks for the support that you have shown us throughout this period of lockdown and particularly as we prepare for the return to compulsory education on Monday 8th March.

I wrote to you recently and said that I would be sending two letters to you in preparation for our return. The letter sent to you on 25th February explained the plans we had for the mass testing of students for COVID-19 using Lateral Flow Tests. I have received responses from nearly 90% of the academy which has been a big help in allowing us to plan. If you have not yet responded then please do so as soon as possible, even if you're not giving consent. The link to the form can be found here: <https://forms.gle/V4emWdAUSeGGeM9T7>

In this letter I would like to explain the arrangements for students returning to the academy on the morning of Monday 8th March. I have recently sent out a link via text message showing the times that different year groups should return and the entrances that they should use. A summary of that table can be found below:

Year Group	Day of return	Time of return	Entrance to use
7	Monday 8th March	10:30 - 10:50	PE Gate (from the car park)
8			Student Entrance (from the car park)
9			Y9 Gate (from Acres View)
10		08:00 - 08:20	PE Gate (from the car park)
11			Y11 Gate (from Acres View)
Sixth Form			Student Entrance (from the car park)

When the students arrive we will direct them either to their normal timetabled classroom or to a waiting room in order to have their first COVID-19 Lateral Flow Test. If we have not had the consent form returned for a student then they will be directed to the waiting room until their parent or carer has provided the form. Any student that has had COVID-19 in the last 90 days or will not be taking the tests will go straight to their normal timetabled lesson. Students in Years 7, 8 and 9 will have pre-recorded lessons or Google Classroom activities for periods 1 and 2.

Whilst it is our intention to get all students back into normal lessons in the academy as soon as possible our primary focus must be on ensuring that the academy is a safe environment and we have limited the transmission of the virus within our community. With this in mind, we will be working with all of our teaching and support staff on Friday 5th March in the academy and therefore all of the remote learning lessons will be pre-recorded or activities will be set through Google Classroom - **there will be no live lessons on Friday 5th March.**

In almost all cases our control measures remain unchanged from earlier in the academic year and we will continue to remind students of the importance to regularly wash their hands, to socially distance from each other when possible and to make use of hand sanitisers throughout the academy. The government guidance now states that students should wear face coverings in all areas within the academy where social distancing may be difficult. **This includes within classrooms.** The usual medical exemptions still apply to this advice. It is the responsibility of the parent or carer to ensure that their child has an appropriate face covering in the academy.

We have very high expectations of all of our students with regards to their excellent attitudes to learning, their behaviour and conduct within the academy and their adherence to the enhanced safety measures. Our students continually rise to the challenge of being amazing every day and we have no doubt that they will continue to do so. In order to help them meet our expectations can you ensure that the following rule reminders are understood:

- Students should arrive on time for their lessons - registration starts at 08:25 and therefore students should be ready to enter their classrooms at 08:15.
- Students should bring all of the equipment needed to learn with them in a bag. This includes their pens, pencils, whiteboards, whiteboard pen and their planner.
- Students should be wearing their full academy uniform at all times, this includes plain black shoes. Up until the Easter break we will still be allowing students to add a coat or plain black jumper to their uniform. We will not be allowing students to wear hoodies of any description and the coat or jumper is in addition to the full uniform and not instead of any part.
- Students should not wear any jewellery with the exception of a wrist watch.
- Students should not have unnatural hair colours or extreme hairstyles.
- Students should have switched their mobile phones off and stored them in their bag.
- Students should speak to peers and adults in a calm and polite manner at all times.
- Students should bring either a packed lunch or £2.50 in cash for their lunch - students who are eligible for a free school meal will continue to receive one.

We appreciate that whilst the majority of students are excited to return to the academy and resume the social interaction with their friends which they have missed since the beginning of this lockdown, some may be anxious about their return. Our form tutors, learning managers and inclusion staff will be on hand to support students with as much care as they need every day. Please do share any concerns with us so that we can respond quickly to any issues that arise.

It is important that we continue to work together in supporting our children to return to school and a greater sense of normalcy. The pandemic has had an impact on us all, but with a positive route out of lockdown and a return to school we can build back stronger and provide our students with great life chances.

Yours faithfully,



Rob Southern
Head of School



Steve Roberts
Lead Principal