



2 March 2021

Important information regarding the reopening of the Academy to all students

Dear Parent/Carer,

Please find below our plan for the return of all students to the Academy following this period of national lockdown. We need to balance the desire to bring students back as quickly as possible, with the additional demands placed on the Academy due to the mass testing we are offering. Students who are taking part in the programme will undertake 3 tests onsite, before moving to home testing from the week beginning the 15 March 2021.

To allow us to bring all students back into the Academy as quickly as possible, we are implementing a phased return over a short period of time. Mass testing presents various challenges, as not only do we need to use our large spaces for testing, we also need to use these spaces to keep students apart until the outcome of their initial test is known. In order to do this, it has been necessary to stagger the start for students. By adopting this approach, we are able to complete the initial phase of testing quickly, so that all students are able to return to face-to-face teaching by Wednesday 10 March 2021.

Children of critical workers and those currently accessing provision will continue to follow their current pattern of attendance until students in their year group return fully. They will complete supervised remote learning until face-to-face teaching recommences for their peers.

We are asking our **older students who have provided consent for testing** to come into the Academy this week to allow us to do their first test as follows:

Thursday 4 March 2021 Year 11 and Year 13 by appointment only*

Friday 5 March 2021 Year 10 and Year 12, by appointment only*

* Parents/Carers of Students in Years 10-13 (who have given consent) can book a test appointment via our **Parents-Bookings portal found on the Parent Firefly page**. A step by step guide of how to do this will be sent separately to the parents/carers of Years 10-13. Students must not arrive more than 10 minutes before their scheduled test.

They will need to return home after testing and follow the current lockdown guidance. Students arriving for testing should not come with groups of friends and must maintain social distancing from others at all times.

From Monday 8 March we will be welcoming back students as follows:

Year Group	7	8	9	10	11	12	13
Monday 8 March	Remote Learning from home for all Yr 7 students	Only students in testing programme to attend~	Only students in testing programme to attend~	All students in these year groups attend as normal for face-to-face teaching			
		Other Yr 8 students Remote Learning from home	Other Yr 9 students Remote Learning from home				
Tuesday 9 March	Only students in testing programme to attend~	All students in these year groups attend as normal for face-to-face teaching					
	Other Yr 7 students Remote Learning from home						
Wednesday 10 March	All students in all year groups attend as normal for face-to-face teaching						

~students attending for testing will complete supervised remote learning that day, in line with students remaining at home.



What does my child do when they attend for a test?

Students attending for a test will need to go the Community doors and wait, under the direction of staff for their test. Once the test has been completed, students will either go to a holding area and complete remote learning whilst waiting for their test result, or, if they in Years 10, 11, 12 and 13 and are coming on site **before the 8 March for a test**, they will return home after the test. The first day for testing for each group is shown in the table above.

My child is not taking part in the testing programme, so what day do they return to the Academy?

Monday 8 March: All Year 10, 11, 12 & 13 students return for face-to-face teaching.

Tuesday 9 March: Year 8 & 9 students will join students in Years 10, 11,12 & 13 for face-to-face teaching.

Wednesday 10 March: All students will return to full time, face-to-face teaching.

My child has now decided they want to take part in the mass testing programme. How can I register?

If your child wishes to take part in the testing and you have not yet given consent, you must do this by **5pm Wednesday 3 March 2021** by filling in [this form](#). If your child is in years 10-13 you will then be able to book an appointment online via our **Parents-Bookings portal found on the Parent Firefly page**. A step by step guide of how to do this can be found on the accompanying help sheet. once you have submitted the consent form above. If you are having any difficulty with the booking platform please contact our Main Office on 01254 604000.

My child has symptoms of coronavirus, can they come to school for a lateral flow test?

No. If your child has symptoms of coronavirus, you must book them a PCR test at local test centre. Your child and their household must follow the stay at home guidance. If the test is positive, the child and the household will need to continue to isolate for full 10 days. If the test result is negative, they can return to school as normal.

Please note, **all** students will need to bring a packed lunch for the first two weeks. For students entitled to free school meals lunch will be provided.

How will my child find out further information about daily school routines related to their year group?

We will shortly be releasing a video and bespoke *Welcome Back* page on our Academy website. This will provide further, more detailed information about daily Academy routines pertinent to all students. Please look out for this link which will be sent out in the coming days.

As we move towards the full opening, it is important that students continue to engage with their remote learning so that they are able to transition to face-to-face teaching with their peers.

If you have any questions about the phased return, please contact the relevant POD.

Your faithfully,

Miss C Huddleston
Principal