

1st March 2021

Dear Parent/Carer

We are very much looking forward to welcoming students back on the week commencing Monday 8th March. In order to ensure the safe return of all students, we will be staggering the return as follows:

Monday 8 th March	Tuesday 9 th March	Wednesday 10 th March	Thursday 11 th March	Friday 12 th March
Re-introduction Days for Y7, Y11 and Y13 ONLY	Re-introduction Days for Y10 and Y12 ONLY	Re-introduction Days for Y8 and Y9 ONLY	All students return	Normal Day

We will continue to offer provision on-site for the children of Key Workers on Monday, Tuesday and Wednesday of next week on the days not allocated as re-introduction days for these students. Key Worker students must arrive at the academy for 8.40am each day in full school uniform via the external entrance to the auditorium.

Students are no longer permitted to attend in PE kit on the days that they have PE lessons. Students must bring their kit with them on the relevant days.

We will continue to follow the safety measures which we operated last term:

- Regular hand-washing and sanitising
- Students operating in bubbles
- Separate entrances, lunch time areas and recreational areas for student bubbles
- Separate staircases for student bubbles
 - Y7 and Y9 = Green
 - Y8 = Yellow
 - Y10 and Y11 = Purple and Grey
 - Y12 and Y13 = Sixth Form
- One-way systems for movement around the Academy
- Additional cleaning measures

However, following the Government's announcements last week, we will now be adding additional safety measures with regards to face masks and testing:

Face Masks

All students, unless medically exempt, are now expected to wear a face mask throughout the school day (inside and outside of lessons) apart from when they are sat down eating at break and lunch times. They will wear a face mask at all other times. This will be reviewed by the Government in five weeks. We are therefore asking that students arrive at the Academy prepared with either a reusable or disposable mask (with spares) so that we can keep everyone as safe as possible. Staff will also wear face masks where they can not adhere to 2 metre distancing.

Testing

All students are now being offered testing in schools in order to prepare them for using the home testing kits which will be issued over the coming weeks. We would encourage all students to access these tests as it serves as an additional safety measure in school. However, testing **is not compulsory** for all students. Students with consent will have three tests over a 15-day-period and will then move to home testing. The in-school testing will work with students in preparing for the tests to be carried out at home. This training will increase the confidence of students, therefore increasing the accuracy of the test. If parents have not consented to in-school testing, students will attend school as normal providing they follow the normal national guidance:

<https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/covid-19-stay-at-home-guidance/stay-at-home-guidance-for-households-with-possible-coronavirus-covid-19-infection>

Standards and Expectations

As you are aware, we introduced a new Rewards and Consequences Policy last term. We fully expect all of our students to adhere to the new requirements and we will work closely with students and parents to ensure that these standards are met. All students should:

- Arrive on time (normal Academy times are operating)
- Wear full school uniform (no trainers)
- Be equipped to learn (Black pen, green pen, pencil, ruler, calculator, P.E. Kit)
- Have a school bag (this no longer needs to be Academy branded, however, it must be appropriate e.g. no handbags)
- Have their mobile phone switched off when on the premises (and in their school bag)
- Be polite and respectful at all times

School Transport and end of school day arrangements

All students, unless medically exempt, are required to wear masks on school and public transport. Individual bus/coach companies have risk assessments in place. We encourage students, where possible, to walk or cycle to school. Parents are not permitted to access to the Academy site or carpark for the purpose of dropping-off and collecting their children. Please make suitable alternative arrangements.

Examinations and Teacher Assessed Grades

We have now received further information from the Department for Education and Ofqual about how exam grades will be awarded this year. When Year 11 and Year 13 students return next week, we will be sharing the plans for the coming months and the evidence we will use to support our judgements. Students will be offered a range of opportunities to add to this evidence base and we will have comprehensive plans in place to support them. Once we have confirmed all of the plans, we will write to you again outlining the detail.

May we take this opportunity to remind you about up and coming Parents' Evenings for Y11 and Y13 on Thursday 18th March – 16:00 – 19:00 p.m. We will operate this event virtually via School Cloud. Details of how to book an appointment will be sent out early next week.

We look forward to welcoming all of our students back on site.

Thank you for your continued support.

Yours faithfully



Mrs J E Sing
Headteacher