

Monday, 1st March 2021

Dear parent/carer,

PREPARING FOR OUR RETURN TO THE ACADEMY

We are thrilled that all students will be returning to the academy next week. In preparation for this, please find below the details of our reopening plan. Also, please find attached a separate letter that I have written to all students, which I would be grateful if you would read with your child.

Staggered return times

The last day of remote lessons will be **Thursday 4th March**. On **Friday 5th March**, all academy staff will attend an INSET Day. On this day, students should study independently at home, completing the work that their class teachers are setting in advance throughout this week.

On **Monday 8th March**, all students in Year 7, Year 9 and Year 11 will attend school for an induction programme led by their tutor, before which there will be an opportunity to participate in (optional) Covid testing. Arrival and dismissal times will be staggered as follows:

Year Group	Arrive	Dismissal
Year 7	Arrive from 08:00 for a prompt 08:30 start	15:00
Year 9	Arrive from 10:00 for a prompt 10:30 start	15:20
Year 11	Arrive from 12:00 for a prompt 12:30 start	15:40

Students in Year 8, Year 10 and the sixth form will study independently at home on this day.

On **Tuesday 9th March**, all students in Year 8, Year 10 and the Sixth Form will attend school for an induction programme led by their tutor, before which there will be an opportunity to participate in (optional) Covid testing. Arrival and dismissal times will be staggered as follows:

Year Group	Arrive	Dismissal
Year 8	Arrive from 08:00 for a prompt 08:30 start	15:00
Year 10	Arrive from 10:00 for a prompt 10:30 start	15:20
Sixth Form	Arrive from 12:00 for a prompt 12:30 start	15:40

Students in Year 7, Year 9 and Year 11 will study independently at home on this day.

On **Wednesday 10th March**, the normal timetable will resume for all students.

Covid safety measures

The academy is committed to ensuring a safe and reassuring environment for all students, parents and teachers. All of the Covid safety measures that were in place before Christmas will remain in place. In addition, the following safety measures will be implemented:

1. All students will receive a Covid safety briefing as part of their induction day
2. There will be a staggered dismissal at the end of each day until Easter.
3. Students will be required to wear face masks both around the building and in classrooms until Easter.
4. The co-curriculum and academic intervention will not resume until after Easter.
5. Following the initial in-school testing programme, all staff and students will be offered twice-weekly Covid testing at home.

Covid testing programme

All students are encouraged to participate in the national school-based Covid testing programme, as this measure is designed to protect themselves and others. However, participation is completely voluntary and no student will be tested against their will or without the consent of their parents. Students will be offered an initial Covid test upon arrival at their induction day. They will be offered a second test towards the end of the first week back, and a third test at the beginning of the second week back. Following this, students will be provided with two home test kits per week. Mr. Oulton, Senior Vice Principal, will write to you later this week to provide more details about the testing programme. His letter will contain a link to an online consent form, which we ask you to complete by Thursday 4th March at the latest.

Student wellbeing

We recognise that the Coronavirus pandemic and the associated lockdown will have affected children differently. To support the wellbeing of all students as they return to school, wellbeing will be a central feature of our tutor time programme. Students will also have enhanced access to Place2Be, our school counselling provision. However, if you feel that your child has acute wellbeing needs, for example if they have suffered trauma or bereavement in recent months, please contact your child's Head of Year, so that we discuss any further support that may be useful.

Staggered dismissal times

From Wednesday 10th March until Easter, we will be staggering the dismissal of students to support social distancing at the end of the day. Year 7, Year 8 and Year 11 will be dismissed at 15:00. Year 9, Year 10 and the Sixth Form will be dismissed at 15:15. We expect all students to head straight home after being dismissed. Congregating in public spaces after school in academy uniform is not permitted. I would be grateful if you would reinforce this to your child.

Year 11 and Year 13 Teacher Assessed Grades

I know that students in Year 11 and Year 13 will be eager to hear information about how their grades will be determined this summer. Ms. Mitchell-Rose, Vice Principal, will write to parents before the end of next week to outline our approach. In the mean time, students and parents can be reassured of the following.

- Students will only be assessed on what they have been taught
- Students will sit internal exams before May half term. We will prepare students for these fully and devote lesson time to directly-instructed revision
- The internal exams will inform, but not solely determine, the teacher assessed grades. Other assessment information, such as AP1 predictions and key assessments completed throughout the year, will be used to contextualise and moderate the grades.

Preparing for the return

To give your child the best possible start in their return to school, please ensure that they have their full academy uniform ready to wear on the first day back, that their appearance is in keeping with the academy's policy and that they have all of the stationery and equipment that they will need. If your child is missing any stationery or equipment, they will be able to pop into the academy at an allocated time on Friday 5th March to buy replacement items. Details of the staggered collection times and the items available will be communicated separately.

Yours faithfully,



Mr. D Smith
Principal