

26<sup>th</sup> February 2021



Dear Parents

I am delighted that the Prime Minister Boris Johnson has made the announcement that all students can return to school from Monday 8<sup>th</sup> March, we will be very happy when, as a school community, we can be fully together again. Remote learning will continue to be set until your child is back in school.

### **Safety in school**

When students return to school we will, of course, have control measures in place and will continue to have a culture of regular hand sanitising.

Additional support measures from the Department of Education now include testing and the increased use of face coverings. Each student will receive three covid-19 lateral flow tests over the first two weeks back. All staff are already having tests twice a week. You will have already received a link to provide consent for this and I would encourage you to complete this as soon as possible.

<https://forms.gle/uRgS1aZsMtkXLJ4v6>

After the three initial tests we have testing kits for students to complete at home and will provide more guidance about this nearer the time.

### **Face coverings**

Face coverings have been in use in corridors since September and as an additional measure, for a limited time, the Department for Education have introduced that all students should also wear face coverings in lessons. Students should therefore wear their face coverings at all times in the building except when they are eating.

Fortunately, the weather is much improved and we will encourage all students to go outside at break and lunchtime when they can remove their face covering and enjoy the fresh air.

We would like all students (except those with exemption lanyards) to have cloth face coverings as the disposable face coverings are not designed for extensive wearing throughout the day and can break easily.

### **Return dates and testing**

In order that we can have a settled return on the first day and so children are less worried about the tests, we would like students to come into school the day before they return for their first covid test.

We understand that students may well be anxious or nervous about taking a test, especially if they haven't been tested before. Please show them the attached guide for how they will take a test. The testing team will be here to help guide them on the day as well. Next week we will also put together a video of the testing hall to reassure students and show them the process. Mrs Steggel and Mrs Leyland are both members of the testing team and will take care of any student who finds it tricky.

Test results will be provided directly to parents mobile phones so there will be no need to wait for the test result and students do not need to be in uniform.

All covid tests are taking place in the sports hall and students should enter school via the PE entrance, they will then exit via the sports hall and go round the side to leave the Academy.

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An exempt charity

Students will not need to enter the rest of the Academy on that first day when they are being tested.

<b>Year group</b>	<b>Arrive at school for covid test only, students to go home after test</b>	<b>Arrive at school for first day</b>
Year 11	Friday 5 <sup>th</sup> March 9:30am Year 11 Surnames A – M 10:00am Year 11 Surnames N – Z	Monday 8 <sup>th</sup> March 8.30am
Year 12 & 13	Friday 5 <sup>th</sup> March 10:15am Year 12 Surnames A – M 10:45am Year 12 Surnames N – Z 11:10am Year 13 All students	Monday 8 <sup>th</sup> March 8.30am
Year 9	Monday 8 <sup>th</sup> March 9:30am Year 9 Surnames A – M 10:00am Year 9 Surnames N - Z	Tuesday 9 <sup>th</sup> March 8.30am
Year 10	Monday 8 <sup>th</sup> March 10:30am Year 10 Surnames A-M 11:00am Year 10 Surnames N-Z	Tuesday 9 <sup>th</sup> March 8.30am
Year 8	Tuesday 9 <sup>th</sup> March 11:30 am Year 8 Surnames A – M 12:10pm Year 8 Surnames N - Z	Wednesday 10 <sup>th</sup> March 8.30am
Year 7	Tuesday 9 <sup>th</sup> March 9:30am Year 7 Surnames A – H 10:00am Year 7 Surnames J – Q 10:30am Year 7 Surnames R - Z	Wednesday 10 <sup>th</sup> March 8.30am

## **Uniform**

We will welcome students back in full uniform from 8<sup>th</sup> March and I would advise that students try their uniform on as it is a long time since December and many (like my own daughter!) have grown a lot and may need a bigger size. Most shops are providing online delivery, but if there is an issue at all please do contact your child's tutor to discuss this.

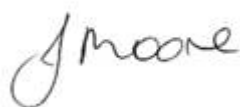
## **Transition back to school**

Thank you for completing our surveys as lockdown has progressed. Next week all teaching staff and support staff will be working from the Academy and we will be contacting lots of families in preparation for our full return. If you think it would help your child to have a call or a visit to school and we have not made contact already, then drop your child's tutor a message through ClassCharts and they will be in touch.

Finally, whilst we have been pleased with the level of remote learning students have completed at home we do recognise that this time has not been easy and we will be providing an increased level of pastoral support to all students and having some fun, I think it is fair we all need this! We will also be starting the enrichment programme so we can have sport, arts and music activities after school which have all been greatly missed.

I look forward to seeing you all soon. Stay safe.

Yours sincerely



Mrs J Moore  
Headteacher