MC/bn

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25th February 2021

Dear Parent/Carer,

You will already be aware that on Monday 22nd February 2021, the Prime Minister announced the full re-opening of schools to all students from Monday 8th March. We are delighted that this means that we will be able to welcome all of our students back to the Academy during this week.

We know that the vast majority of students have been working hard at home and we look forward to celebrating their achievements and progress. We will be working hard to make the return to school as positive an experience as possible and will provide support for all students including those who have found the experience of remote learning and this period of lockdown more challenging.

Please make sure that any work completed on paper or in books during the period of remote learning is brought into school upon return and handed to the relevant teacher.

If you have been provided with a device to support remote learning you may keep this at home until your child is due to leave the academy at the end of Y11. This will enable students to access remote learning in the event of self-isolation or school closure and to complete homework tasks that may be set using google classroom in future.

In order to make sure all students understand how the return to school will work and what is expected of them I will be leading a live streamed assembly at 8:50am on Friday 5th March and this will be posted on the school website for anyone unable to access it live. To access the live streamed assembly use the link below. The link will also be posted in Google Classrooms for form time/PD and on the school website pop-up - <https://tinyurl.com/f3hfp9mh>. To access the live stream you will need to log in to the classroom as normal OR use your personal Google email account. Usual meet links in PD/form classrooms should be used for the session that follows with tutors.

This will be followed by an extended Form Period on google classroom from 9:10am-10:00am so that students have the opportunity to ‘meet’ their form tutor and ask any questions in advance of their return to school.

The government has asked schools to provide lateral flow testing for all students prior to their return to the classroom. In practice, this means that each student will be offered a lateral flow test on arrival to the academy. Providing that the result of this first test is negative, they will be able to remain on site and return directly to their lessons.

During the first three weeks following their return, students will be offered a further two lateral flow tests on-site. After this initial testing programme, two lateral flow tests will be provided for each student, each week, to be carried out at home: more information will follow regarding this in due course.

Testing is not compulsory in order for students to return to school, however, the DfE “encourages everyone to participate in the asymptomatic testing programme to help break transmission links

by identifying those who may be carrying the virus unknowingly.”

Please could we ask all parents/carers to complete the consent form by following the link below, (including those who have completed the form previously as there have been some revisions) having first read the consent statement. The deadline for completion of the google form is **Thursday 4th March**.

The link to consent form is <https://docs.google.com/forms/d/e/1FAIpQLSeXL8RfJ0P2mKi2opNaPdvkYvIsi8qpf2tpIsgzEZ_147ljSQ/viewform>

The attached leaflet contains further information regarding the testing process.

As you will appreciate, the testing of all students and staff on site presents certain logistical challenges. In order to facilitate this process and enable a smooth return to the academy for all, students will return on a staggered basis during the week commencing 8th March.

We will send you a text message by the end of Friday 5th March with your specific time slot. All students will be provided with a time slot, even if they do not wish to participate in the testing programme. It is important that students stick to their allocated time slot and do not arrive at different times.

Students who travel by bus will be allotted the first time slot of the day. Those eligible for free school meals will be allotted a morning slot to ensure they are able to obtain a meal in school.

Students should continue to access their on-line learning provision via google classroom until they return to the academy.

**If your child is already accessing in-school provision for vulnerable students and the children of key workers, they can continue to attend school as normal and do not need a time slot.**

There is no higher priority than the welfare and safety of all our staff and students. As such, we will continue to implement in full all of the safety measures and mitigations as set out in our COVID academy risk assessment, which is available via the Academy website. An updated version of the risk assessment will be available prior to students’ return from 8th March.

Please note that further to a change to government guidance, students and staff will now be required to wear a face covering in all indoor areas within the Academy, including classrooms, unless they have an exemption. It is essential therefore, that all students attend fully equipped with a suitable face covering.

Similarly, please could we ask for your support in ensuring that students return to the Academy in full school uniform to help ensure a positive return to lessons.

We very much look forward to seeing everyone back in the building and learning with their friends and all the teachers and support staff by Friday 12th of March.

Yours faithfully,



**Mr M Cottingham**

**Principal**

**Enc.**