



DUKE'S

ALDRIDGE ACADEMY

2nd March 2021

Dear Year 9 Parents/Carers

We are really excited about the prospect of having some semblance of normality and I hope the young people in your homes are looking forward to once again being back in classrooms with their teachers and learning in the face-to-face way that they were enjoying before Christmas. From what has been outlined thus far, there seems to be two stages in this return, the way things will work up to Easter, and then if things continue moving in the right direction, a much more normal school life thereafter.

LATERAL FLOW TESTING TO IDENTIFY ASYMPTOMATIC CARRIERS

You will no doubt be aware of the Government's recent decision to reopen schools from Monday 8th March. It is a requirement that we enable three Lateral Flow Tests on the school site for students 3-5 days apart this will be undertaken for all students upon their return.

After the three tests are administered at school, both staff and students will be undertaking tests at home. All of this is optional but we encourage everyone to do it in order to help identify asymptomatic carriers of COVID-19 and thereby prevent the spread of the disease.

Clearly, the logistics of such an exercise have taken a good deal of planning to minimise the impact on learning. It is my belief that once this testing has begun, then it would be in everyone's best interest to proceed as quickly, but as safely, as possible.

We will begin testing on Monday 8th March. The details of when Year 9 will need to come in, and on which day is stated below. As you can imagine, this is a large logistical exercise. In order to help us schedule this testing, we would ask you to complete the consent form sent to you last week. Students must bring this on their first day in school with the signed consent to say whether you wish your child to be tested or not.

We must ensure that our safety procedures are strictly adhered to. There will be no tolerance of those who are not prepared to follow the safety expectations and I hope we will continue to enjoy your understanding if and when we might have to sanction your child/young person for not adhering to the expectations.

OTHER SAFETY PROCEDURES

Steps to make us all safe:

- Masks are to be worn at all times inside buildings by students. Those who are exempt from wearing a mask must wear a visor to help protect others. We expect students to wear the masks sensibly and correctly. Students will need to bring their own masks or purchase them for 10 pence each.
- Teaching staff will remain 2 metres away from students in classrooms.
- Students will be placed in a designated Year bubble with the rest of their year groups and will not move outside of it. Bubbles will not come into close contact with each other, which will help keep the school safe. Teachers will move from bubble to bubble to teach but will remain socially distanced at the front of the room.
- Once students are in school, they will wash or sanitise their hands regularly, including before and after they eat, and sanitise on entry to every lesson.
- There will be additional cleaning routines, sanitising products available in every room and regular reminders of hygiene steps students can take.

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Uniform:

Students should attend school in full school uniform. The highest expectations of uniform are essential. The staggered return beginning the week of 8th March, please ensure that your child has the correct footwear for school. Can you also ensure that things like false nails, false eyelashes and semi-permanent make-up are removed and not reapplied. Staff will be busy enough ensuring that safety measures are adhered to, so we need you to do your part at home before students return.

Academy Equipment:

It is very important that students have the correct tools for learning.

Students are required to bring the following equipment to the academy each day:

- School bag – ruck sack
- Academy diary/notebook
- Small dictionary
- Thesaurus
- A scientific calculator (not a basic calculator)
- 2 black or blue pens
- 2 green pens
- Pencils and a sharpener
- A set of colouring pencils (not felt tips or crayons)
- Pencil rubber
- A pair of compasses
- Ruler
- Protractor
- A reading book
- Glue stick

All students must have an appropriate academy black bag with equipment for lessons. Bags – all students are required to have a ruck sack for school. It is essential all students have their hands free for washing as they walk around the building. Handbags are NOT ALLOWED in the academy.

School Meals:

Free school meal vouchers will be sent out to those who are eligible on Monday 8th March. There will be no breakfast service. Students need to bring a healthy snack and drink for breaktime. **Please can I ask you to top-up your child's ParentPay account(s).**

Year 9 entrance into school is via Worcester Avenue.

	Monday 8 March	Tuesday 9 March	Wednesday 10 March
Period 1	No lessons	09:45 students arrive	Normal Timetable
Period 2	10:30 arrival for students that are being tested	Normal Timetable	Normal Timetable
Period 3	Tutor Period	Normal Timetable	Normal Timetable
Period 4	Tutor Period	Normal Timetable	Normal Timetable
Period 5	Normal	Normal Timetable	Normal Timetable

Yours sincerely



M. Duncan
Principal