



23rd February 2021

Dear Parent/Carer

Following yesterday's update from the government I wanted to share details of your child's return to school with you as quickly as possible. The information below will be followed by more specific details prior to students returning to school.

Return to school and testing

The academy will begin a phased return of students on Monday 8th March with all students expected to have returned by Wednesday 10th March, this staggered approach will enable us to test all students (who have been provided with parental consent) upon their return, before entering the school. Students will be tested twice more in school, once more in the week of the 8th March and then once at the beginning of the week commencing 15th March. After this point students and staff will be asked to conduct tests at home twice a week. We are currently awaiting more information on the home testing. Consent will be confirmed with parents before Friday 5th March.

Masks and safety

We are aware that a negative rapid flow test result may not be 100% accurate so it is vital that we maintain all safety measures we had in school before Christmas and introduce some additional ones. The wearing of masks/face coverings in classrooms has been recommended as a temporary additional level of protection. Again we will be communicating with parents to ensure we are aware of students who are exempt from wearing these.

The protocols that were in place prior to Christmas will remain, with students staying in their year group bubbles for lessons and breaks, sanitising hands on entrance to a building, lining up before each lesson with a minimum of movement around classrooms.

Changes to remote learning

To enable all staff to fully prepare for the return to school on the 8th March we will be pausing live delivery of lessons from after period 3 on Thursday 4th March (Period 4 onwards will not be live). We will provide some form of work for students to access in line with the remote timetable but this time can also be used to catch up on any outstanding assignments. From Monday the 8th March work will still be assigned to students who have yet to return and also those not attending for Covid-19 related reasons.

Uniform

Upon return to school all students should wear school uniform and be fully equipped as per page 17 of their student planner. Our uniform supplier remains open. Please visit their website at www.uniform-direct.com prior to travelling to their stores as it provides useful information to prepare you for your visit. Please also note that the school restaurant will be fully functioning and students will be able to access supplies at break and lunch as normal.



There will be further communication next week via ClassCharts to finalise arrangements and protocols for the full opening, there will also be a live event for all students that you will be welcome to attend or watch back with your child, outlining these arrangements and our expectations for their return.

Many thanks for your continued support, please do not hesitate to contact school should you have any questions or concerns.

Yours faithfully

Mr J Semmelroth
Head of School