



February 2021

Dear Families

Return to the Academy

As I am sure you have seen, the government have announced that schools will reopen for face-to-face learning, following staff and student Covid testing, from Monday March 8th, 2021. We are looking forward to getting the students back and seeing them soon. We have been working through all the guidance in the last couple of days to make sure we get things right for their return.

Despite this, we must remember that Coronavirus has not vanished from the local area or from the country and there are several things we need to put into place to ensure that the Academy remains safe and virus-free.

Testing

The most important of these is mass Covid testing of all students before they return to classrooms. Students will be tested twice more over the following week. This means students will receive three Covid tests in total.

After this initial testing period, students will be provided Covid tests by the government to take and use at home and will no longer be tested in the Academy.

Consent

To allow the testing to run quickly and smoothly, we ask each family to complete an online form which will give consent and allow entry into the NHS track and trace system. It will also mean you are informed of the result of your child's test via email or text. The form has been included in a copy of the letter emailed to you.

Testing all of the students will take some time and will need to be done one class at a time. Because of this we will be operating a staggered start, with students assigned a time to come into the Academy on either the 8th or 9th March to be tested. They will be able to return to their classroom and stay in school once they receive a negative Covid test result.

**WE MUST KEEP ON
PROTECTING EACH OTHER**



HANDS



FACE



SPACE



**STAY ALERT TO
THE SYMPTOMS**

**HIGH TEMPERATURE OR
NEW CONTINUOUS COUGH OR
LOSS OF TASTE OR SMELL?**



FIND OUT HOW TO GET A TEST, AND HOW LONG TO ISOLATE AT:

nhs.uk/coronavirus



We are fortunate to be a small Academy which means we should be able to have all students tested within two days. We will not be able to offer key worker placements after Friday 5th March 2021 as our resources will be tied up with the testing of students.

If you do not give consent for your child to be tested they will be permitted to return to the Academy once all students in their class group have been tested, as stated in the government guidance. We strongly recommend that families consent for all children to be tested, for the peace of mind of families, staff and the students themselves.

Face Coverings

In addition, the government in their latest advice have requested that students wear masks at all times when indoors other than when eating, including in the classroom. This is for all students other than those who are exempt for medical reasons.

We would ask that all families please ensure that students have a face mask they can wear when returning to the Academy. This provision is to be in place until at least Easter so it is very important that students bring a mask as they would bring any other item of uniform. Masks must be comfortable, plain in colour with no patterns or logos. We would prefer for masks to be reusable rather than disposable if possible, to reduce the cost and impact on the environment.

Next Steps

Next week we will write to you with a date and time for your child to come to school to receive a Covid test. Please complete the consent form by Monday 1st March so we can generate the letter for your child's return and testing time. Online lessons will carry on as normal until March 8th.

All of the above is done to make sure that on return you can be confident that we have done everything we can to ensure the Academy is safe for your child. I will talk to the students about the testing process tomorrow at 9:00am in assembly.

We very much look forward to seeing all the students in less than two weeks time.

Kind regards

George Faux

Principal