

March 2021

Dear Families

This letter states the date and time that your child must return to the Academy next week. At the current time 96% of those who have responded to our consent form have agreed to have testing. If you have not completed the form you will receive a phone call today or tomorrow. This is a very challenging exercise for the Academy so please bear in mind the following:

We aim to test all students with consent by the end of Tuesday. If we achieve this it will be the fastest programme of any secondary school in the Authority. If it looks like we are not able to complete all tests in time you will receive a text message.

- It is not possible to make swaps or changes to the times below. Each class must be tested as a bubble before students can go into communal areas together.
- It is important that you stick to the timings below. We cannot accommodate students outside of these timings as there is a clear system and flow of where children must wait before their test results.
- If you do not consent for your child to be tested, your child must still arrive at the Academy at the time listed for their form group. Students who are not being tested will be supervised in their L4L room while the tests are carried out.
- If your child has tested positive for Covid-19 in the last 90 days they should not be tested. Please inform reception if this is the case.
- Anyone showing symptoms of Covid-19 should not attend the Academy but should get tested at the local testing centre and self-isolate according to the government guidelines.

I understand that this may be inconvenient for some families but we believe this is the fastest way to get all students back to the Academy as quickly and safely as possible.

Testing Times

Year 8 must arrive at the academy on **Tuesday 9th March** at the time listed below. For fairness they have been randomly assigned. Students stay in the Academy once tested:

Form	Time
8.1	8:30am
8.4	9:15am
8.2	10:00am
8.6	10:45am
8.7	11:30am
8.5	1:15pm
8.3	2:00pm



Further Information

There are a number of other key pieces of information we would like to go through to ensure a smooth return to the Academy. We would remind students that all COVID-19 processes will still be in effect. These include: lining up, staggered starts, hand sanitising and social distancing, in addition to the testing.

During the first week back, we will be doing some revision work and then some tests with the students during the second week to work out how best to support them throughout the second half of the year. Year 8 will stay at home and receive remote learning on Monday 8th March.

Uniform and PE

Students should attend the Academy in full uniform, including on their testing day. There will be no PE on Monday 8th March, but the normal timetable will resume from Tuesday and students who have PE on their timetables should come to the Academy in their PE kit as before.

Our local uniform supplier, CC Uniforms are open and their online store is functioning as normal. If there are any issues with items of uniform students must bring a note in their planner to explain.

Masks

As mentioned in the last letter, the wearing of masks is compulsory in corridors and strongly recommended in classrooms. Please ensure your child comes to the Academy with a mask that is comfortable to wear and plain in colour with no patterns or logos.

Home Testing Kits

Once students have received three covid tests in school, we will provide kits to the students to continue testing at home. You may have seen that the government is making testing kits available for all families of students as they return to the Academy. These tests must be picked up from your workplace, local test centre or ordered online, we cannot provide testing kits to families.

<https://www.gov.uk/guidance/rapid-lateral-flow-testing-for-households-and-bubbles-of-school-pupils-and-staff>

<https://www.gov.uk/order-coronavirus-rapid-lateral-flow-tests>

Laptops

If your child has borrowed a laptop from the Academy, please make sure it is charged on the Sunday night and brought back into the Academy at the time of your testing with the charging cable. Make sure that it is brought in a suitable bag in case of rain. We will then pass it to our ICT department to be checked and cleaned before returning it to your child's classroom.



WEST BROMWICH
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With your support we are sure the testing and return to the academy will run smoothly and that we will be able to have all students back in lessons as soon as possible. We look forward to seeing them all next week.

Kind regards

George Faux
Principal