



3rd March 2021

Dear Parent / Carer

As you are likely aware, the government has announced that schools will reopen to all pupils from **8th March**. We are very much looking forward to welcoming back all of our pupils to face-to-face education. Teaching will continue **remotely on Monday 8th and Tuesday 9th March** whilst government recommended rapid testing of our pupils takes place on the school site - please refer to the timetable below. (Only children of key worker parents and vulnerable pupils should attend school as normal on the 8th and 9th March.)

School Attendance

On Wednesday 10th March:

- All pupils in Year 7 and Year 8 should return to school unless they are self-isolating. **School attendance from this date is mandatory and our usual rules on attendance will apply.**

As a reminder, pupils should self-isolate and not come to school if they:

- Have coronavirus symptoms or have tested positive.
- Live with someone who has symptoms or have tested positive.
- Are a close contact of someone who has tested positive.

For pupils who are self-isolating, we will:

- Continue to provide remote education following our remote learning policy.

Coronavirus testing

To help us keep everyone safe, we will be offering rapid coronavirus testing to **Year 8 on Monday 8th March** and **Year 7 on Tuesday 9th March** before **all pupils return to school on the 10th March**. We have planned to test all pupils over the two days so that we can begin face to face learning as smoothly as possible.

Academy staff have kindly volunteered to conduct these tests and have received the required training. I would like to reassure you that we have been testing on site since January and staff are now well versed in conducting them. Only pupils who have parental consent will be tested. Please see below the test appointment time for each class. Siblings will be able to attend the test together.

Monday 8 th March		Tuesday 9 th March	
9.15-10.10am	8.3	9.15-10.10am	7.1
10.40- 11.30am	8.1	10.40- 11.30am	7.2
11.30-12.15pm	8.4	11.30-12.15pm	7.3
1.25-2.15pm	8.2	1.25-2.15pm	7.4
2.15 -3.00pm	8.5	2.15 -3.00pm	7.5

Once the test has been completed **pupils should return home** to continue their learning remotely and return to school for face to face teaching on Wednesday 10th March if their **first test result is negative**. Test results will take about 30 minutes to process. Pupils will be asked to take a total of 3 coronavirus tests at school before the Easter break, with 3 to 5 days between each test. If a pupil tests positive in any of these tests, they will need to self-isolate in line with government guidance. After the 3 initial tests at school, pupils will

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be offered coronavirus tests that they should take twice a week at home. We will be in touch with more details on home testing. Testing is voluntary, **however, we strongly encourage your daughter to take part so we can help prevent the spread of coronavirus.** If your daughter is not participating in testing, she should attend school from the 10th March.

Our safety measures - Rest assured that we are doing everything we can to make sure our pupils can return to school safely. From 10th March, we will be taking the following protective measures:

- We will ask that all pupils wear a face covering in classrooms, communal areas and corridors where social distancing is not possible. We would advise pupils to bring in at least 2 masks for this purpose. This is in line with the latest government guidance for schools.
- All procedures and safety measures we put in place last September will continue. Our reopening plans from September can be found on the website. These include:
- Staggered starts, breaks, lunches and end of the day for all year groups so that groups do not congregate and mix at the beginning or end of the day.
- All year groups will continue to be taught in their bubbles.
- Regular cleaning will take place.
- Pupils will continue to be asked to regularly sanitise their hands on entry and before eating etc.
- Avoiding unnecessary sharing of items.
- Pupils have a designated seat in classrooms.
- A reminder that we would like your support in not gathering at the school gate to collect your daughter and otherwise coming onto the site without an appointment.

Uniform - A reminder that pupils should return to school in **full school uniform** wearing black shoes and with a suitable bag and coat for poor weather. Please ensure that your daughter is following our policies on jewellery, make up, hair and nails.

Return of laptops - We have provided laptops to families and pupils who have needed them in lockdown. We would now ask that the laptop is returned when your daughter returns to school on Wednesday 10th March.

Additional support

Lockdown has been a challenging period for all of us, and I would like to thank you for your continuing support during this difficult and uncertain time. If you or your daughter have any concerns about returning to school or if you think your daughter might need extra support when she returns, please get in touch with your daughter's Student Services Officer in the first instance.

We would also like to thank you for all your support in helping your daughter learn from home. We will continue to keep in touch if we update our plans or if we need to make changes due to new government guidance.

Yours sincerely

Mrs R Shafquat
Principal

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