



3 March 2021

Dear Parent/Carer,

Following my previous communication, I would like to confirm arrangements for students' return to school from Monday 8 March. As I have said previously, all staff have been very impressed with how well students have worked whilst at home – so a big 'well done' to everyone. However, we are also really looking forward to welcoming your children back to the Academy in person and the beginnings of a return to normality that this hopefully signifies.

I hope you find that this information prepares you and your child well. If you have any questions, please direct them to your child's Head of House in the first instance.

Information for the return to the Academy

Lateral Flow Device Testing

In line with the government guidance, all students, with consent to be antigen tested, will be tested three times via a lateral flow device upon return to school over the first two weeks. Students will have their first test before they begin lessons in the Academy again. Subsequent testing will happen as part of the normal Academy day. Following your child's third test, students will be provided with a home test kit to carry out twice weekly testing (more instructions about this to follow).

Lateral Flow Device tests are designed to pick up asymptomatic cases and the more people in our academy community who consent to test, the more protected we all are. If you have not consented to test, then I would strongly encourage you to do so now. This will mean that your child can give others the reassurance that they are not unknowingly infectious. The overwhelming majority have consented to test. If you or your child would like to see how the testing procedure works then we have prepared a video for you [here](#). If you haven't consented to test and would now like to do so, then please contact Reception.

If you do not consent to asymptomatic testing, as is your right, your child will return to school at the beginning of the Academy day on Thursday 11 March.

As I am sure you can imagine, testing 1000 students at once is quite an operation, so we need to ask for your help with the first test. Fortunately, the Government has recognised this logistical challenge and has allowed schools to phase our return. Having started mass testing previously, we know how quickly we can test, and we have been able to plan to get students back for face-to-face teaching as quickly as we can. Therefore, the last 'live' Teams lesson that students will receive will be on Friday 5 March. From Monday 8 to Wednesday 10 March, all lessons will be on Show My Homework until the point of return for all year groups which will be Thursday 11 March.

However, in order to ensure every child's first test can be managed, whilst still maintaining a safe environment, we are proposing that students will be required to attend the Academy at the following times for testing only. **After their test, they will return home to continue with their Online Learning until Thursday 11 March (while we safely test other year groups).**

Tuesday 9 March

Sixth Form – Each tutor group will be allocated a specific time and venue below. They must enter via the vehicle gate entrance and go straight to their area. They will then be tested and asked to go home immediately via main reception. The result of the test will be notified to them when they are home.

8.30am

- 12AHG – Go straight to the Lawn and remain on the clearly marked social distance markers until you are called for your test
- 12LL – Go straight to the MUGA and you will be directed into the Sports Hall, by your tutors, where there will be socially distanced markers to keep you safe

9.30am

- 12AJR – Go straight to the Lawn and remain on the clearly marked social distance markers until you are called for your test
- 12JY – Go straight to the MUGA and you will be directed into the Sports Hall, by your tutors, where there will be socially distanced markers to keep you safe

10.30am

- 13EM & 13MC – Go straight to the Lawn and remain on the clearly marked social distance markers until you are called for your test
- 13DP – Go straight to the MUGA and you will be directed into the Sports Hall, by your tutors, where there will be socially distanced markers to keep you safe

If your child has regularly attended our on-site provision for Vulnerable students and children of Critical Workers they can continue to attend on Monday 8 March to Wednesday 10 March. The rest of the school will be learning remotely on these days.

Thursday 11 March

All students will return to full time face-to-face teaching following an extended tutorial providing they have tested negative in the first test. Students will be expected to wear full Academy uniform and ensure their hair is a natural colour, make-up and jewellery as per Academy rules and bring their planner and equipment.

Additional Information

The Academy Day

From Thursday 11 March, the Academy day will run as it did in the Autumn Term with consistent bubbles, where possible, strict zoned areas for break and lunchtime and a staggered start and finish for all year groups. Internally the Academy site will continue to operate a zoned system to ensure safety and ease congestion when moving from one classroom to another. It is really important that students follow this to minimise face to face contact in the corridors. Students will continue to be expected to sanitise their hands at the beginning and end of lessons. There will also be additional cleaning of communal areas in place. Room layouts will be as consistent as possible with rows to avoid face to face contact with students.

Face Coverings

The rules around face covering have changed and in the short period between the return to school and the Easter holidays the government have said that they 'highly recommend' that face coverings are worn in lessons, where social distancing is not possible, as well as around the site as was our practice before Christmas. **We are taking the government line that the wearing of coverings in lessons in this period is "highly recommended" as students are unable to socially distance from each other whilst at their desk.** However, there will be no sanctions for not wearing them in lessons. Masks will still need to be worn, at all times, in all communal areas on site except when eating and drinking or doing exercise, for example in PE or whilst moving around at break and lunch. Students who are exempt must ensure that they wear their lanyard and that they are fully visible at all times or they will need to have their exemption cards available for staff to look at

Equipment and Uniform

Please ensure that your child has all equipment as detailed in their Academy planner ready for return as we cannot lend out items. Please ensure that they have replenished their hand sanitiser and bring a plain mask in every day. Year 7 and Year 8 students must ensure they bring a reading book to school. **Students will be expected to wear full Academy uniform and ensure their hair is a natural colour, make-up and jewellery as per Academy rules and bring their planner and equipment as above.** Please do try on uniform now so that you know in advance if new items are needed. CJI Clothing are currently shut as 'non-essential' shops but you can order from the website.

Catering Service

From Thursday 11 March, the school meal provision will recommence and follow the same procedures that were used in the Autumn Term. Therefore, students will need to order any food that they wish to eat onsite using the pre-order app (Fusion) by 8.30am on the day that they wish to receive the food. The pre-order app will be open for orders from Wednesday 10 March.

Distribution of food will happen in the same way as it did before Christmas, with food being handed out to the students in their designated zones at lunchtime (break time on Wednesdays).

ACE Provision

Our ACE programme will recommence in the week beginning 15th March.

Attendance

The Department for Education's guidance document [Schools coronavirus \(COVID-19\) operational guidance \(publishing.service.gov.uk\)](https://www.gov.uk/government/guidance/schools-coronavirus-covid-19-operational-guidance) sets the expectation that all students will return to school in the w/c 8 March. The guidance states:

"School attendance will be mandatory for all pupils from 8 March".

The usual rules on school attendance apply, including:

- *parents' duty to secure their child's regular attendance at school (where the child is a registered pupil at school and they are of compulsory school age)*
- *the ability to issue sanctions, including fixed penalty notices in line with local authorities' codes of conduct"*

We will be working in line with this guidance.

Travel to the Academy

We have been advised to suggest that walking or cycling are the best ways to get to school. However, we know that this will not work for everyone and students do need to be mindful of the government rules about walking together or congregating in large groups during a national lockdown. If you lift share, the guidance below suggests that it would be acceptable to carry children from different bubbles as long as you endeavour to keep the people in the car the same, keep the car well ventilated, face forward and not towards other passengers and to clean cars regularly. <https://www.rac.co.uk/drive/news/motoring-news/should-you-be-car-sharing-fresh-government-guidance-confirms-safe-lift-shar/>

Covid Symptoms

I must remind you that if your child shows any symptoms of Covid-19 (a new, continuous cough and/or a high temperature and/or a loss of, or change in, normal sense of taste and smell) **please do not send them to school** nor send them for their asymptomatic testing but go to the dedicated NHS 111 Covid site, <https://111.nhs.uk/covid-19/> for details of what you need to do.

If your child develops symptoms at the Academy:

In the unlikely event that your child develops symptoms whilst on site, they will be escorted to an isolated, well ventilated room, in line with guidance, and we will ask for you to collect them. Please ensure that if you have changed your contact details that you have made the Academy aware and please be contactable throughout the Academy day.

I recognise that there is a significant amount of information in this letter. However, please ensure you have read it with your child to ensure they have the best possible start to their return to full time face to face teaching.

We are really looking forward to seeing everyone back next week.

Kind regards

Mr M Avoth
Principal