

25th February 2021

Dear Parents/Carers,

I am really pleased that our students will be returning to the academy from Monday 8th March. To ensure that we are minimising disruption over the next few weeks and keeping everyone safe, we will need to facilitate mass asymptomatic testing for students on their return. This will involve staggering students' return over the first few days to ensure that we have safely coordinated the testing of students before they return to their learning bubbles.

Covid-19 Testing in School

Students will attend the academy site for a test prior to starting back in lessons. We will be staggering this testing by year and teaching group, in order to minimise social contact and mixing between students.

After the initial test, students will need to complete two further tests on site during the first two weeks. On completion of the three tests in the academy, home test kits will be issued to enable students to test themselves, supervised by parents, twice per week. The government has advised us that we can only release the home testing kits after the initial tests in the academy.

I know that as parents you will support the testing to ensure a safe academy environment for all, but there may be a small number of students who may not be able to complete the testing. I fully trust and support you if you have made the decision that your child cannot complete the test for whatever reason. Please let us know if your child will be unable to take part.

Action for parents

If you are happy for your child to be tested, please complete the consent form by **3.00pm on Tuesday 2nd March.**

<https://forms.office.com/Pages/ResponsePage.aspx?id=2s8TOK9SpUy44yMVeXcKuuibSo6SVfIBhzc3C8ahxQVUNVIUQUZKMVICOUhZVII5UDROQUFaSIMxTy4u>

If you have previously provided consent due to accessing our on-site provision during lockdown, you do not need to complete it again.

Face Coverings

Due to a change in Government guidance, staff and students are to wear face coverings in all areas, including classrooms, as a temporary extra measure. Please can you ensure your child has a face covering for each day, unless they have evidence of a medical exemption.

The academy's previous COVID-secure rules will remain in place. These include year group bubbles, one-way systems, staggered break and lunchtimes and staggered ends to the academy day. Extra-curricular clubs will not resume immediately, we will review this for the start of the summer term.

Despite the testing programme and other measures in place, it is unfortunate, but perhaps somewhat inevitable with the high number of positive cases locally still, that there will be a need for students to isolate and for us to respond to positive cases in the same way we have done previously, with advice from the Health Protection Hub.

The only way we can try and avoid this is to not bring Coronavirus into the academy and would urge parents and carers to seek tests for their children if they are unwell, even if not displaying the well-known Coronavirus symptoms. Testing is readily available in Telford and Wrekin for people with or without symptoms.

https://www.telford.gov.uk/info/20741/i_have_covid_19_symptoms/5177/getting_a_covid-19_test_in_telford_and_wrekin



Schedule for the return

The key worker provision will still be available on Thursday 4th, Friday 5th and Monday 8th.

Thursday 4th March

- This will be the final day of live lessons for all students.

Friday 5th March

- **Year 7,8,9** students: Catch up or completion of any outstanding work or choice from our no screen activity list.
- **Year 11** students: Students will be sent an appointment slot for testing during the morning. Students are to return home after their testing appointment.
- **Year 10** students: Students will be sent an appointment slot for testing during the afternoon. Students are to return home after their testing appointment.

Monday 8th March

- **Year 11 & 10** students: Return to their normal timetabled lessons (Week B) unless they have been contacted about a positive test result.
- **Year 9** students: Students will be sent an appointment slot for testing during the morning. Students are to return home after their testing appointment.
- **Year 8** students: Students will be sent an appointment slot for testing during the afternoon. Students are to return home after their testing appointment.

Tuesday 9th March

- **Year 11, 10, 9 & 8** students: Return to their normal timetabled lessons (Week B) unless they have been contacted about a positive test result.
- **Year 7** students: Staggered arrival to be tested in the morning and then stay in the academy for lessons in the afternoon (Week B).

Wednesday 10th March

- Full academy day for all students
- Mop up testing for any student that did not attend their appointment slot.

An email will be sent to each year group separately, giving specific details of their times of arrival.

Thank you for your support in helping us to facilitate this and ultimately reducing the chance of coronavirus entering the building.

Kind regards,

Mr R Gummery
Principal

