

Friday 26th February 2021

Dear parent/ carer,

As you can imagine it has been a busy week here as we get our heads round the planning for reopening and the testing of all students. And you will also be aware that yesterday the government published their plans for how GCSE and A Level grades will be awarded this summer. We have already been in contact with these students and their parents and will continue to share further information as it comes out.

At the start of this week we contacted you to say that we are very much looking forward to welcoming back all students from the 8th March. We will be running the following timetable for the week of 8th March.

	Mon 8th	Tues 9th	Weds 10th	Thurs 11th	Fri 12th
AM Testing by allocated slot, from 8.30am. Wellbeing sessions from 9.00 to 11.00am	Year 11 testing	Year 10 testing ----- Year 11 Wellbeing session	Year 8 testing ----- Year 10 Wellbeing session	Year 7 Wellbeing session ----- Year 8 Wellbeing session	Normal Academy day for all students
PM Testing by allocated slot, from 12.30pm Wellbeing sessions from 1.30 to 3.30pm	Sixth Form testing	Year 9 testing ----- Sixth Form Wellbeing session	Year 7 Testing ----- Year 9 Wellbeing session	All students to arrive during break, ready to start P3 at 11.10am	

I appreciate this is a staggered start until Thursday but it is so important we welcome all students back in a careful and planned manner. Your child's HoY will be in contact next week with further details and arrangements for their sessions during this week.

Lateral Flow Testing

The first session is where your child will self administer a Lateral Flow Test (LFT) under supervision from our trained testing assistants. We will email you next week with a 30 minute window for your child to attend the Academy for their test. They should arrive promptly at their allocated time and will return home immediately after this testing. If their result is negative, then they will return at the allocated day and time one or two days later for their Wellbeing and Welcome Back session. Please complete [the consent form](#) if you haven't already done so (and read the associated [privacy form](#)). It is really essential we have your consent so that we can ensure we identify any asymptomatic positive cases of the virus. We must avoid transmission of the virus and in particular do not want to be collapsing year bubbles and

having students sent home for 10 days. We know just how disruptive this is to you and to a child's education and wellbeing. The best way to avoid this situation is to be in a position where all students have provided consent for LFT. If you have any concerns or queries about the LFT please contact your child's HoY. All secondary schools have been instructed to run testing. It is a safe and rapid process. Your child will have two further tests at the Academy. After this they will be supplied with home testing kits which they will self administer and you inform the Academy of the result. Staff will also be using home testing kits.

C-19

Please be aware that the rules around close contacts remain the same as before. If anyone in your household has symptoms or tests positive, then all other household members must self isolate for 10 days. The same applies where your child has been identified as a close contact of someone who has tested positive. **Please do not send your child into the Academy if they have C-19 symptoms or have been in close contact with a positive case.** Although transmission of the virus is falling rapidly and the vaccination programme is having a significant impact on transmission, we must all continue to be alert and follow the rules.

Attendance at the Academy week of 8th March

During the times when your child is not attending the Academy for either their Lateral Flow Test or for their Wellbeing and Welcome Back session, then they must remain at home continuing with Remote Learning. From Thursday Period 3 all lessons will resume at the Academy and all students are expected on site. Year 7 and 8 will already be on site. All other year groups should make their way to the Academy, arriving during break from 10.50am. Period 3 commences at 11.10am for every student. Students should arrive through their normal entrance as was the case in the Autumn term. E.g. Year 11 arrives through the Uperne Road entrance.

Uniform

May I remind you that all students must wear full and correct Academy uniform, including school shoes. Trainers are not permitted. They must bring a face mask (unless exempt) as in line with new government guidance these are now to be worn in classrooms as well as communal areas in the Academy. Please note the Academy does not provide face masks as a routine so it would be a good idea if your child has a spare mask in their bag, in case their original one breaks or is lost at any point. Students should continue to try and practise social distancing whilst travelling to and from the Academy and ensure they are wearing their mask whilst travelling on public transport. Please do check your child's ParentPay account is credited so they can purchase food at break and lunch from Thursday.

Teaching and Learning

As I have already said we are counting down the days until we can resume teaching on site for all students. The quality of Remote Learning has been excellent, however it is no substitute for in person classroom learning. Staff will be preparing for this next week so that classrooms and resources are all ready to go. Please be aware we have a small number of staff who are clinically extremely vulnerable and therefore must continue to shield. They will teach their lessons remotely; any students in Years 7-11 who are affected by this will have a cover teacher supervise their lessons at the Academy.

We know that for many the return to school comes not a moment too soon and that your child is excited about returning, being with their friends and benefiting from being back in a classroom. However for some students they will be anxious; about their wellbeing and the return to the Academy, and perhaps anxious about family members who may still be at greater risk. I want to reassure you that staff are supportive and understanding of this. They have a lot of experience and expertise to deal with the

challenges of returning to the Academy after so many weeks of being at home. We saw in September that students settled back to school quickly and with great maturity. I have every confidence this will be the same in March. We will be working carefully to ensure that we support and encourage all students with the time and work they have missed. The key thing is for them not to worry about what has been, but to focus on the 'now'. What can they do to engage and participate in their learning, improve their wellbeing and make the very best of the rest of this academic year.

Wishing you a lovely weekend,

Mariella Ardron
Principal

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Mariella Ardron". The signature is written in a cursive style and is positioned above a light grey rectangular background.

Mariella Ardron
Principal