

Tuesday 2 March 2021

Dear Families,

We are delighted to be welcoming back our students to the academy from Monday 8 March. This letter will provide you with information on our staggered approach to students returning to school safely and the additional control measures that will be in place. Can I start by thanking you for supporting your daughter's during this period of closure. The levels of engagement with our online provision has been truly impressive and will hopefully support a smooth transition back into face to face learning.

**Attendance:**

Students will return to the academy on the following dates:

Year Group	Date of Return	Start Time
Year 7	Monday 8 March	8.40
Year 8	Tuesday 9 March	8.40
Year 9	Wednesday 10 March	8.40
Year 10	Thursday 11 March	8.40
Year 11	Friday 12 March	8.40
Year 12	Thursday 11 March	8.40
Year 13	Friday 12 March	8.40

As Key Stage 4 and Key Stage 5 all have their own devices and have had such high levels of engagement, we have taken the approach to bring Key Stage 3 back first. Students will continue with remote learning until their full return.

As per the guidance from the Department for Education, *'From 8 March all children and students should return to school or college and attendance will be mandatory once again from this date.'* Therefore, all students are expected to return to school on their date of return.

Students should return in full uniform. PE kits can be worn to school on the day's students have PE. As classrooms will continue to require ventilation with windows open, students can also wear their academy hoodie if required.

Students will remain in their year 'bubbles' for their lessons, break and lunchtime. On arrival to school they should go straight to their allocated outside area as normal. Students who have parental consent for the LFT testing are to go directly onto the MUGA (new sports pitch), prior to going to registration on the day of their return.

Headteacher: Mr Qamar Riaz BA (Hons)

### Start of the school day:

Students must adhere to their specific entrance unless they have direct permission from their Head of Year or Pastoral Manager:

**Key Stage 3** – Front entrance (Church Road)

**Key Stage 4 and Key Stage 5** – Back entrance (Handsworth Wood Road)

### End of the school day:

The staggered dismissal at the end of the day also remains:

#### Monday Tuesday Thursday and Friday

Year group:	Time	Exit location
7	15.05 pm	Front gate
8	15.10 pm	Front gate
9	15.15 pm	Front gate
10	15.05 pm	Back gate
11	15.10 pm	Back gate

#### Wednesday

Year group:	Time	Exit location
7	14.15 pm	Front gate
8	14.20 pm	Front gate
9	14.25 pm	Front gate
10	14.15 pm	Back gate
11	14.20 pm	Back gate

### Additional Control Measures:

#### Masks

It has been advised by the Government that in all secondary schools, face coverings should now be worn in classrooms, corridors, communal areas and where social distancing cannot be maintained. We will be following this guidance and request that parents/carers send their daughter's to school with their own face covering, as well as a spare. This guidance will be reviewed at Easter. Students are reminded to sanitise and wash their hands frequently throughout the school day. Social distancing outside of a student's year 'bubble' must be maintained and respected at all times.

## LFT Testing

You would have received communication from the academy regarding required consent for Lateral Flow Testing, prior to students returning to the classroom. Students are being offered three LFT tests during the first fortnight, then home testing kits will be supplied for all students and staff thereafter.

- Deadline for consent in Thursday 4 March;
- Consent is voluntary;
- Students without consent can return to their lessons on their date of return;
- Students with consent will have their first LFT test on the morning of their return;
- Information regarding home testing will be provided for all parents/carers and students next week.

We appreciate that there will be a range of emotions regarding the return to school, but rest assured we will be supporting our students with any concerns or issues that may arise. We hope that the sense of normality will help us all to move forward as a community. We very much look forward to seeing you all next week.

Stay safe

Yours sincerely

Mrs Alexandra Galan

Associate Headteacher