



23rd February 2021

Dear Parents and Carers,

RE: Returning to the Academy Site and COVID-19 Lateral Flow Testing

We hope you are safe and well and we are very much looking forward to welcoming all our students back to the Academy with a phased return from **Monday 8th March 2021** - we will be sending out more details on this very shortly.

We have taken the decision to move our planned INSET day to **5th March 2021** this will enable us to be fully prepared to welcome children back. Therefore, the Academy, will be closed to all children, including those of key workers (and there will be no remote learning provision) on **Friday 5th March 2021**.

As you will be aware, the Government has announced that all students will have the opportunity to undertake three Covid-19 Lateral Flow tests upon their return to school. We are sure you agree that it is vital we all work together to keep our community as safe as possible and testing is crucial to this.

If you haven't already done so, please complete the online consent form to give permission for your child to undertake the series of Lateral Flow Tests before they return to the Academy. The consent form can be found at <https://forms.gle/BL18WsQ47ZeUxZwK9>. We will be sending you further information about the testing plan in the next few days.

Below is a video with some of our Key Worker students talking about their experience of taking the test when they have come in to study at the Academy during the current lockdown: <https://youtu.be/0MSpfVcspGI> Do please take the time to view it with your child as it helps to give a really good insight and an honest and reassuring picture of what taking a Covid-19 test is really like.



Whilst the news of a full return to school comes as a great relief, it is still very important that we remain vigilant in our measures to help combat the virus. The national school closure was enforced to help reduce the risk that students might play in community transmission. We still have to follow the advised adapted working practices to minimise that risk, which include:

Ensuring that a face covering is worn in all indoor communal areas

- Ensuring that hands are sanitised on entry (and exit) to all rooms
- Ensuring that students arrive and depart from school at the correct time and using the specified entry and exit points
- Ensuring that indoor spaces are well ventilated
- Keeping students in their year group 'bubbles' when they are in indoor areas

In addition to the above points, which were already in operation, the government has further strengthened its recommendations in relation to face coverings. This now means that students will be required to wear face coverings in any indoor area areas where 2 metre social distancing is not possible. Please note that this will mean that **face coverings will now be required to be worn in all classrooms, communal areas and corridors**. Students who have already notified us about a medical exemption do not need to inform us again.

As mentioned at the start of this letter, we will be sending out more detailed guidance shortly on the planned phased return to the Academy.

Thank you for supporting us as we make the preparations necessary to get the Academy ready for all of our students and for all that you have done in supporting and encouraging your children with their remote learning.

Yours sincerely,

Mr Luke Homer,
Vice Principal