

1st March 2021

Dear Parents and Carers,

Secondary – March return

We hope you and your family are well. We are writing to you today with the great news that all schools have been asked by the Government to prepare to re-open, with students returning to secondary school on different days during the week of Monday, 8th March.

Our priority is the safety of our students, your family, and our staff. In this letter we will explain about two additions to our safety arrangements – changes to the use of face coverings, and a new requirement for testing.

We have also attached two other notes:

1. Detail on all the preventative arrangements
2. Information and consent forms for asymptomatic testing

Staggered return to the Academy

Due to complexities of testing so many students on their first day back, we will be having staggered start dates for each year group.

Please note the children of critical workers and those identified as ‘vulnerable’ are to continue to come to the Academy each day. When the rest of their year group returns, they will rejoin their year group bubble.

Students within each year group will begin on the following days:

Date	Sixth Form	Year 11	Year 7	Year 10	Year 8	Year 9
Mon 8th March	8.30-8.45	8.15-8.30	Online task	Online task	Online task	Online task
Tues 9th March	11.00- 11.10	11.00-11.10	8.15-8.30	Online task	Online task	Online task
Weds 10th March	11.00-11.10	11.00-11.10	10.30-10.40	8.30-8.45	Online task	Online task
Thurs 11th March	11.00-11.10	11.00-11.10	10.30-10.40	11.00-11.10	8.15-8.30	Online task
Fri 12th March	11.00-11.10	11.00-11.10	10.30-10.40	11.00-11.10	10.30-10.40	8.30-8.45

Following their first day back, students will start later for the remainder of the week.

Page 5 details start and finishing times for each year group from wc. 15th March.



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Please note, students will have **online tasks to complete until they return to school on the noted return date** for their year group.

Face Coverings

Previously students were required to wear a mask when moving around indoor communal areas of the Academy, and in their classroom whenever social distancing was not possible.

The Government now recommends that **face coverings should also be worn in classrooms** or during activities unless social distancing can be maintained, and this recommendation remains in place until Easter, at which point the Government will review it. So students are expected and encouraged to wear a face mask throughout the school day. Students were provided with an Academy face mask in the Autumn term for use in school – additional supplies are available from the Academy office as before, with a £1.00 charge per mask. You can read further information on face masks in the accompanying note (Point 10.)

Asymptomatic testing

Secondary schools have been asked to establish an Asymptomatic Testing Site where students and staff can take a Lateral Flow test. These tests give a result in 30 minutes and help identify people who are infectious but do not have symptoms.

Each student will be asked to take three tests in school, taken a few days apart across their first couple of weeks back at the Academy. After they have completed the three tests at the Academy, students will be supplied with Lateral Flow Test kits to take a test at home, twice a week.

Testing **is voluntary however is strongly encouraged** as it provides additional confidence to the whole school community. For us to be able to test your child, we require your consent. Please see the accompanying consent letter.

What do I need to do now?

Up to and including the week of Monday, 8th March we continue to welcome children of critical workers and those identified as 'vulnerable' at school, all other students will continue with their remote learning until their day when they return to school as indicated on the timetable shared on page 2.



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We are mindful there is a lot of information here, however we wanted you to be fully informed. We will of course be supporting the students as they return, ensuring they are confident with all the arrangements we have in place.

Please note, we are asking for your consent for your child to undergo three lateral flow tests at school. Please see the further information on this in the attached. If you have already given your consent for your child to be tested, please skip this step.

Our Privacy Notice can be accessed through the following link, which explains how personal data will be used:

https://www.oasiscommunitylearning.org/uploaded/Oasis_Documents/OCL_Privacy_Notice.pdf

Please read all the information provided carefully. If after reading everything you have any questions, please contact your child's Head of Year.

Thank you for your ongoing support to the Academy. To reopen safely, we will need everyone to continue to follow all the safety measures carefully.

Yours sincerely



Mr S Chaudhri
Principal, Secondary phase & Sixth Form



Mr A S Booth
Executive Principal



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1. Additional arrangements

More information on our arrangements

Our preparations closely follow the guidance from the Government. You can read the advice by searching for '[DfE What parents need to know during COVID-19.](#)'

1. Attendance

The Government's guidance is clear that students are expected to attend school during the week commencing Monday, 8th March (please see more information on staggered starts in point 4 below). This means parents and carers have a duty to ensure their child regularly attends school, and that schools have a responsibility to record attendance and follow up absence.

2. Social Distancing

We will have a number of one-way systems in place to remind students about the importance of distancing wherever possible. Classrooms will be set up in a way to maximise individual students' space. Desks will be side by side and forward facing. There will be as much ventilation as possible.

3. Year group bubbles

As part of our social distancing precautions, your child's year group will continue as a 'bubble.' Their bubble will be taught in a specific part of the Academy and will go to lunch and breaks together. This will help us to minimise contacts and mixing, while delivering a broad and balanced curriculum.

4. A staggered return

To help with the requirement to test students at the Academy on their return, we are staggering the start dates for each year group. Please see below first day arrangements:

Year group	First day back	Arrival time between	End time	Enter via
Years 12 & 13	Mon 8th March	8.30 to 8.45	15:25	Foyer
Year 11	Mon 8th March	8.15 to 8.30	15:10	Service yard
Year 7	Tues 9th March	8.15 to 8.30	15:10	Student entrance
Year 10	Wedn 10th March	8.30 to 8.45	15:25	Student entrance
Year 8	Thurs 11th March	8.15 to 8.30	15:10	PE Gate
Year 9	Fri 12th March	8.30 to 8.45	15:25	PE Gate



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Please be reminded if your child is, for example in Year 7, they will be taught online as usual until they return to school on the noted return date.

5. After the first day back, start and end times for each year group

Each year group bubble will continue to have staggered start and finish times, as in the Autumn term. It is important students arrive in their allotted time slot so as not to contact with students outside of their bubble.

Year group	Arrival time between	End time	Enter via
Year 7	8.15 to 8.30	15:10	Student Reception
Year 8	8.15 to 8.30	15:10	PE Gate
Year 9	8.30 to 8.45	15:25	PE Gate
Year 10	8.30 to 8.45	15:25	Student Reception
Year 11	8.15 to 8.30	15:10	Service Yard
Year 12	8.30 to 8.45	15:25	Foyer
Year 13	8.30 to 8.45	15:25	Foyer

6. Hygiene and cleaning

Good hygiene is everyone's responsibility, and we are all responsible for each other's health. We will maintain intensified cleaning routines with a focus on regularly wiping down door handles and hard surfaces. The Academy will be cleaned every day and there will be disinfectant sprays for cleaning purposes in each class.

7. Cleaning hands

Everyone will clean their hands thoroughly and more often than usual. This can be fulfilled with soap and water or hand sanitiser. Students will clean their hands when they arrive at the Academy, when they return from breaks, when they change rooms, and before and after eating.



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8. Risk assessments

The thorough risk assessment we follow has been developed from the Government and detailed guidelines from the Oasis Community Learning. Our completed risk assessment has been approved by the Oasis national leadership team along with ourselves and will remain under constant review.

9. Getting to and from the Academy

The Government explain that students and staff may use public transport where necessary however encourage everyone to walk or cycle to and from school wherever it is possible and safe to do so. We know this will not always be possible, so please let us know any concerns around this.

People aged 11 and over must wear a face covering when travelling on public transport. People who are exempt do not need to wear a face covering.

10. Face Coverings

When students arrive at the Academy, they must safely remove their mask if they have used one whilst travelling to the Academy, by using the straps rather than the front of the face covering.

They will then be required to dispose of this mask in a covered bin. Students will be required to wash their hands and put on their Academy face covering provided by the Academy.

The Academy face covering is made of cloth and therefore is re-useable and washable. We ask these are washed at home on a regular basis. They are colour coded by year group and will be treated as an item of uniform.

Students are now required and **encouraged to wear their face covering whilst in class**. This requirement will be reviewed by the Government at Easter. This does not apply in situations where wearing a face covering would impact on the ability to take part in exercise or strenuous activity, for example in PE lessons.

When going to the dining hall, students should wear their covering on their face until they are seated for the purposes of eating. At this point students should remove their face covering and put it in their blazer pocket. After eating, the covering should be placed back on the face and hands must be sanitised.



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Staff will be required to wear visors when teaching. Staff will be required also to wear a face mask when social distancing is not possible i.e. when they are supporting an individual student.

11. Devices, water bottles and other equipment

Students are required to bring in their own water bottle for their individual use. These must be labelled and can be re-filled during the day.

Students should not bring in any unnecessary equipment into school.

12. Uniform

All students will return in full Academy uniform. Uniform does not need to be cleaned more often than usual.

13. Suspected symptoms, a confirmed case, and multiple confirmed cases

If your young person develops symptoms at any time (such as a high temperature; a new, continuous cough; or a loss or change to their sense of smell or taste) they must immediately self-isolate, and book a test by calling 119 or visiting <https://www.gov.uk/get-coronavirus-test>.

14. Reduced access to outdoor visitors

To help us reduce the risk of infection, we are asking parents/carers to communicate with us via the telephone – 020 8656 0222; or via email with your child's Head of Year.

If it is required for you to come into the Academy, you will be required to wear a disposable face covering provided by us unless you are exempt.



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1. Consent for asymptomatic testing

COVID-19 testing for staff and students

The Government has asked secondary schools to offer Covid-19 tests known as 'lateral flow tests,' that provide a result within 30 minutes. Up to a third of people who have coronavirus have no symptoms, so testing will improve our ability to stop the virus from spreading within school. We welcome these tests as an additional protective measure that will help keep everyone safe. The tests are quick and safe and will help us to identify if anyone has the coronavirus as early as possible.

- Students with a positive test result will need to self-isolate in line with the stay-at-home guidance. They will also need to arrange another test through <https://www.gov.uk/get-coronavirus-test> to confirm the result.
- Students with a negative result can continue to attend the Academy, using the protective measures in place.

To undergo the asymptomatic testing, we must have your permission for your child to be tested three times on their return to school. After they have returned and been tested at school, students will be supplied with tests to self-swab and test themselves twice a week at home.

Tests at school

If permission is given, your young person will be asked to take a test immediately on their return to the Academy (during the week beginning Monday 8th March), and then twice more within their first few weeks back. This is not mandatory and not a condition of attending the Academy, however we would encourage this is undertaken to assist in the control of the virus.

Tests at home

After your child has returned for the first week and been tested at the Academy, students will be supplied with test kits to self-swab and test themselves twice a week at home. Students, supported by their parent/carer, must report their result at home to NHS Test and Trace as soon as the test is complete, either online or by telephone as per the instructions in the home test kit.

As an Academy, we would also encourage staff and students to share any positive results with us as soon as possible to help with contact tracing.

- Students aged 11 attending a secondary school can take the test themselves or with the support of an adult;
- Students aged 12 to 17 should self-test and report with adult supervision. The adult may conduct the test if necessary;
- Students aged 18 and over should self-test and report the result, with assistance if needed.

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What do I need to do now?

Please read the additional information on 'How will our process work?' below, and the accompanying **NHS Test and Trace leaflet called 'How to do your test'** and share this with your young person to explain what will happen.

Please also visit <https://www.oasiscommunitylearning.org/covid> to read the information on consent and our privacy notice.

If, once you have read all the information, you would like to give your permission for your young person to be tested and your consent for us to handle the information around the results, **we will need to receive this confirmation ahead of their return.**

The quickest and easiest way to do this is by opening your **MyChildAtSchool** app; go to the **Parental Consent** section and **click the slider to green to grant consent**. The full detail of the consent being sought is available [here](#), each numbered point is applicable for the consent being sought. If you do not have MCAS, a copy of this consent form can be printed, completed and brought in to student reception by your child on their return to the Academy – please ensure they know to hand this in on their first day back.

We are urging all parents and carers to agree to this safe and quick test three times within the first couple of weeks once your child has returned to the Academy. If you do not give your permission or your child does not consent, your **child should attend school as normal** and ***continue to follow all other safety precautions.***

How will our process work?

- All secondary students with parental consent will be tested as they return from 8th March.
- Those taking the test at the Academy will be supervised by trained staff. The 'lateral flow' tests are quick and easy using a swab of your nose and throat.
- Results (which take around half an hour from testing) will be uploaded by the staff supporting for the students participating on the Academy site. For any positive result of a participant under 16, parent or carer will be informed.
- Should a student receive a positive test, they will need to self-isolate for 10 days and take a further 'PCR test' (similar to those done in local testing sites) on the same day and minimise any further contact. You should call 119 to book a follow-up test. Once they have had the further test, they will need to self-isolate while they await the result. If the PCR test returns a positive result the student will have to self-isolate for the full 10 days and follow the guidance from NHS Test and

Trace.



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- Should a student receive a negative test, they will continue to stay in school and resume their activities as normal. A student will **only be told if they test positive** on a 'lateral flow' test, so if you do not hear you can assume it was negative. A small number may need to repeat the test if the first test was invalid or void for some reason.
- Studies conducted by Oxford University and Public Health England, show the tests are accurate in identifying a case. The tests have lower sensitivity however they are better at picking up cases when a person has a higher viral load, hence the need to test frequently.

What if my child develops symptoms?

This testing programme at the Academy is for people with no symptoms. If your young person develops symptoms at any time (such as a high temperature; a new, continuous cough; or a loss or change to their sense of smell or taste) they must immediately self-isolate, and book a test by calling 119 or visiting <https://www.gov.uk/get-coronavirus-test>.



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