



Mr Juan Delgado [Principal]

1st March 2021

Outline for Return to School

Dear parent / carer

Firstly, I hope that you managed to have a restful half term and that you and your family are well. I also wanted to take this opportunity to congratulate students at the academy for the effort, dedication and commitment they have shown in the last few months whilst engaging with remote learning. I am also grateful to the staff at the academy for supporting your child during this time and for your continued efforts in ensuring that despite the challenges we all faced you continued to uphold high standards and expectations whilst balancing the task of maintaining your child's well-being.

I am pleased to be able to outline and to inform you of the plans we have in place for the return of students to the academy on Monday 8th March 2021. Following the recent announcement that all students are to return to face to face teaching, following three separate testing opportunities whilst at school, we have put together a timetable and schedule that will ensure students and staff are able to return safely and quickly. Our planned training day on Monday 8th March has been moved to Friday 5th March and the academy will be closed to all students on this day to allow staff to finalise the plans for Monday. The academy will also be closed on Friday 5th March for children of critical workers and vulnerable students.

The safe return to education for students and staff is our main priority and over the last few weeks we have been regularly testing students and staff in the building and have conducted hundreds of tests. This process has been hugely successful and has allowed us to detect transmission of the virus on a daily basis and act accordingly. I would like to take this opportunity to reassure you that there has been no outbreak of the virus in the last two months and the measures that we have in place have remained so. These include the use of face coverings in the building, regular washing of hands, ensuring good ventilation, maintaining a safe distance from each other and maintaining bubbles.

In line with guidance, all students (who have consented) will be tested three times in the first two weeks with each test being three-five days apart. Students are able to return to lessons after the first negative test. After the third test on site students will be issued with a home testing kit and should test themselves at home twice a week from this point. Students will have their first test on either Monday 8th or Tuesday 9th March and should only attend the academy for their test at their allocated time. Once they have had their test they will return home and return the next day for normal lessons. Further details can be found at the end of the letter. If a student is not going to be tested they should return to the academy on the first day of normal lessons for their year group. Students of key workers or those that are vulnerable will be allowed on site on Monday and Tuesday.

We ask for all students that have borrowed either a ChromeBook or any textbooks that they are brought to the Academy either when they arrive for testing or on their first day back at the Academy. Please bring them to the Main Reception where they can be signed back in.

Following the recent lockdown and the surge in cases, the government, based on scientific advice and guidance, has further reinforced expectations around the use of face coverings. Face coverings will now be compulsory not only in corridors and communal areas but also within classrooms where a distance of two metres cannot be maintained. This will mean that face coverings will therefore need to be worn in all inside spaces, including classrooms. If your child has a medical exemption that allows them to not wear a covering please can we ask you to contact reception to ensure we have all updated information. All students should arrive at the academy with two face coverings, in case one breaks during the day. Any student who does not have a face covering on arrival will be asked to wait outside until we contact home and arrange for one to be delivered or they will be asked, with the permission of their parents, to go home and collect one. We envisage that the academy will have received additional face masks by then from the Department for Education but we urge parents and carers to have provided these in case the order has not arrived.

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On their return to the academy students will receive guidance as to why conduct around the academy is so important in minimising the spread of the virus and it is important that they follow this guidance. It is also important to remember that attendance to the academy is the most important step now in returning to normality and the government has made it clear that this is a requirement and that normal attendance procedures will apply.

At this point it is vital that we all play our part in reducing the risk of infection in the community and that we look after each other to ensure the road map outlined by the Prime Minister is successful. I know that some students and parents will feel anxious about the return to education but I can assure you that the measures we had in place in the first term greatly minimised the infection rate across the school community and with these measures still in place I feel confident that the return will be a safe one. Should you have any questions you wish to ask can I ask that you direct them to your child's academic mentor in the first instance and we will get back to you with a response.

Yours faithfully

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Juan Delgado', with a horizontal line extending to the right.

Juan Delgado
Principal