

23 February 2021

Dear Parent/Carer,

Following the Prime Minister's announcement yesterday, I am pleased to confirm that school will begin to reopen to all students from **Monday, 8 March 2021**.

Over the next two weeks, we will continue to deliver on-site provision for the children of critical workers and for vulnerable children alongside our remote learning provision for students working from home.

Whilst we will prepare for the wider reopening, over the coming days we will work carefully through the government guidance to ensure all controls are in place in order to ensure a safe return for all students and staff.

The Department for Education has provided schools with some discretion on a phased return over the week beginning Monday, 8 March to allow for staff and student Lateral Flow Testing, this will start with 3 tests in school followed by twice weekly tests to be conducted at home. It is therefore important that to allow us to carefully plan this return and minimise further impact on education that you complete the consent form attached <https://forms.gle/tBbVW8EXGURrnGf1J8> as soon as possible.

As we get closer to 8 March, I will write to you again to communicate the final details of your son/daughter's return. This will include arrangements for staggered start times and the on-site controls that will be in place in order to continue to promote social distancing; particularly at the beginning and end of the school day and other measures advised including the use of face coverings.

Once the academy reopens on 8 March, we will continue to manage the school in year group bubbles. This will ensure that we are able to limit how many contacts each student has and in the event of a positive case will enable us to only have to instruct a smaller number of students to self-isolate. Much of your son/daughter's provision will remain unchanged from that experienced at the end of 2020.

The wider reopening of schools is a positive step forward in the country's response to COVID-19. Once school reopens, **all** students (with the exception of those specifically instructed to shield by health care professionals) will be expected to attend. As a result, our live online provision will not be provided in the way that it currently is.

It is important that we all work together to prepare all children for a positive return to school including organising your child's uniform, planner and equipment, and re-establishing morning routines to ensure punctual arrival at school.

Whilst I am sure you will appreciate we now have to work through our planning and the revised guidance, if you do have any further questions about your child's return to school on **Monday, 8 March 2021** please contact the academy via the 'Contact Us' button on the school website.

Yours faithfully,



Andrew Downing
Principal