



23 February 2021

Dear Parent/Carer

Plans for a Return to Full-Time Schooling

I hope you had a restful half-term break and that you, and your family, continue to be well. I wanted to take this opportunity to outline our plans for a return to school, following yesterday's announcement by the Prime Minister.

All children are to return to school from the week beginning 8 March and will be expected to be in the building full-time. Attendance is mandatory and we will apply the school's attendance policy to support families in making sure students' attendance is 100% from the date they are due to return.

As part of the return to on-site education, schools are required to support the track and trace of students and staff from March 2021. NHS England require that all schools are able to test for Covid-19 on site, for a short period, meaning that fewer students will need to self-isolate and miss out on critical learning. During the students' first two weeks, the school will test all students three times, using lateral flow tests. After this initial round of testing, students will be provided with two rapid tests (lateral flow tests) to use each week at home. If you haven't already, please can you provide the school with consent to test your child by completing the link on the school website: <https://www.wgacademy.org.uk/covid-19-latest-information/> and return the completed form to office@bluecoatmeres.co.uk. You, as a parent/carers, are able to opt out of your child receiving the test and you can, instead, complete a period of self-isolation as is current practice, should your child come into close contact with someone who tests positive for Covid-19.

Latest government advice is also that students should wear face masks in classrooms as well as in other spaces around the school. Therefore, please can you ensure your child has an appropriate face mask each day that they can use both in the corridor and the classroom. Staff will also be provided with face visors so that they can continue to teach safely. This will be the expectation up until the Easter holiday when the situation will be reviewed.

In order to keep students socially distanced, and allow the Academy to safely test everyone, we are staggering the start times for different year groups. All students should enter the Academy via the gate that leads to the canteen. Please see the table below for details of dates/times and ensure that your child has something to read whilst they wait for the results of their test, as they will be expected to sit in silence. This should be for no more than 30 minutes.

Monday 8 March 2021

Form Group	Arrival Time for Testing	After Testing
11RA	8.30am	Tutor Time Activity
11TB	9.15am	Tutor Time Activity
11RD	10.00am	Tutor Time Activity
After testing there will be an assembly and students will go to P3, as normal, at 12/00pm. Lunch will be at the usual time.		

Form Group	Arrival Time for Testing	After Testing
7TB	12.00pm	Tutor Time Activity
7SS	12.45pm	Assembly
After testing there will be an assembly and students will go to P5, as normal, at 2.30pm. There will be no lunch provided on this day due to the late start. Pack-up will be available for those in receipt of free school meals.		

Form Group	Arrival Time for Testing	After Testing
8KD	1.30pm	Tutor Time Activity
8CGY	2.15pm	Home
Students will need to be at school for 8.30am on Tuesday, 9 March, for their assembly. P1 will start at 9.30am		

Tuesday 9th March 2021

Form Group	Arrival Time for Testing	After Testing
9WE	9.15am	Tutor Time Activity
9BC	10.00am	Tutor Time Activity
9NP	10.45am	Assembly
After testing there will be an assembly and students will go to P4, as usual, at 12.30pm. Lunch will be at the normal time.		

Form Group	Arrival Time for Testing	After Testing
10AMI	12.30pm	Tutor Time Activity
10DD	1.30pm	Tutor Time Activity
10HL	2.30pm	Home
There will be no lunch provided on this day due to the late start. Pack-up will be available for those in receipt of free school meals. Students will need to be at school for 8.30am on Wednesday, 10 March, for their assembly. P1 will start at 9.30am.		

For the remaining two tests students will be brought down to the hall to be tested, straight from their lessons and this will be organised by staff. School will return to the normal timings on students' second day and lessons will be timetabled in the same way as before lockdown. For those students who are concerned about their return to school, or the testing schedule, there will be staff ready to support them in their first few days. We recognise that some students may be anxious and we will ensure we provide help where necessary.

Can I also please remind parents that pupils are to return to school in full school uniform and, should any student not be in the correct uniform, they will be expected to return home to get changed, or remain out of circulation for the day. Also, please remind your son/daughter about appropriate appearance and ensure no false nails, makeup, jewellery or inappropriate hair colour/style. If you require new school uniform, please look on the school website for details of our stockist: <https://www.wgacademy.org.uk/parents/uniform/>.

I recognise that there are a huge number of changes happening over this period but I wanted to assure you that the Academy is making all the necessary provisions to keep all students and staff safe at school and to continue to provide a high-quality educational provision. We have in place rigorous risk assessments to take into account the new legislation and look forward to welcoming your child back at the beginning of March.

Further information on lateral flow tests this can be found here:

<https://www.gov.uk/government/news/secondary-schools-and-colleges-to-get-weekly-coronavirus-testing>

Government guidance for schools can be found here:

<https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/coronavirus-covid-19-asymptomatic-testing-in-schools-and-colleges>

I look forward to welcoming your son/daughter back into school and a return to the high quality education they deserve for the remainder of the school year.

Yours faithfully

Ms C Barber
Head of Academies