



ST/KJP
29th March 2021

Dear Parents and Carers,

I hope you and your families are well.

It has been lovely welcoming all our students back to school. We are extremely proud of the way in which they have adapted to being back in school, completed the lateral flow testing and settled into classroom learning routines.

The progress with the vaccine rollout certainly gives us hope for meeting up with friends and family this summer, but in the meantime it is important that we continue to follow the guidance and take steps to stop the spread of COVID-19.

Testing

The Department of Education has informed us that following the success of the asymptomatic testing programme on the return to school, it is vital to keep testing at home throughout the Easter holidays and into the summer term. Those students who have consented will be bringing home new packs this week.

Students are requested to test every Sunday and Wednesday evening and to inform school only if a positive result is returned. You must inform school by the following morning (Monday and Thursday) and follow up your home test with a PCR test. All positive results from rapid tests undertaken at home need to be confirmed with a standard PCR test. This is because the home tests are not conducted by trained staff in a controlled environment. Following a positive LFD test at home, the confirmatory PCR test should be booked online or by calling 119. Whilst awaiting the PCR result your child and family should self-isolate. If the PCR test is negative, it overrides the self-test LFD test (only if tested at home) and your child can return to school.

Symptoms of COVID-19

The most common symptoms of coronavirus (COVID-19) are the recent onset of:

- new continuous cough
- high temperature
- a loss of, or change in, normal sense of taste or smell

If your child does develop symptoms, you can seek advice from NHS 111 using the link below, or by phoning 111.
<https://www.nhs.uk/conditions/coronavirus-covid-19/check-if-you-have-coronavirus-symptoms/>

Ventilation

Government guidance states it is important to ensure that the academy is well ventilated whilst a comfortable teaching environment is maintained. The academy has air handling units in classrooms which extract air from the room and replace it with fresh air so that it is not recirculating. These units are working to 100% capacity every day. To further increase the airflow, the academy enhances this with natural ventilation by opening high level windows and internal doors, if appropriate. In cooler weather windows will be opened just enough to provide constant background ventilation and opened more fully when a space is unoccupied to purge the air in the space.

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During monitored social times external doors are also opened (if they are not fire doors), where it is safe to do so. Increased heating ensures that comfort levels are maintained, particularly in occupied spaces.

As you will appreciate during the autumn and spring term the academy amended our uniform policy to account for this increased ventilation and decided that it was reasonable to provide flexibility to allow additional, suitable indoor clothing and to adapt our uniform rules and standards in the short term. Therefore, students were permitted to wear a jumper under their blazer when in classrooms and to wear an outdoor coat during break and lunchtimes only.

Uniform / PE Kit

After Easter, when the weather will be warmer, **we will be reverting back to our usual uniform policy.** Students will no longer be permitted to wear jumpers or hoodies that are not part of the standard school uniform under their blazer.

Students have been arriving at school in their PE kit on their designated PE days. This has proved very successful and will therefore continue for the remainder of this academic year. Please can I ask for your support in ensuring students come to school in the correct PE kit. This is a Sheffield PE tracksuit top, Sheffield PE polo shirt, plain black shorts/tracksuit bottoms or leggings, plain black PE socks and trainers. If students do not have a Sheffield PE tracksuit top they can wear a tracksuit top which must be either **blue** or **black**.

Routines

There will be a slight change to the entry and exit routes for the summer term as we will be swapping the area of the school that the Year 11 bubble and Year 10 bubble work in. This is to support them with their studies as Year 10 will need access to computers and Year 11 require rooms which will support them in completing the work that will count towards the basket of evidence to support the teacher assessed grades that will be entered for them. The table below highlights the changes in red:

Year	Timings	Routes	Zone
7	8:35 gate for 8:40 start	Top Car Park	Maths
	15:00 departure	Main reception	
8	8:35 gate for 8:40 start	Pedestrian gate Student reception	Orange upstairs/PE
	15:00 departure	Playground Pedestrian gate	
9	8:45 gate for 8:50 start	Top Car Park	Science, O4, 5, 6
	15:10 departure	Main reception	
10	8:45 gate for 8:50 start	Pedestrian gate	Red
	15:10 departure	Student reception	
11	8:55 gate for 9:00 start	Pedestrian gate	Green
	15:20 departure*	Main reception	
12/13	8:55 gate for 9:00 start	Top Car Park	Purple
	15:20 departure	Purple entrance	

* Year 11 will leave at 2:40pm on a Friday





Year 11/13 Intervention/Period 6

The academy will be re-introducing intervention sessions after school for students in Years 11 and 13 next term. We are still waiting for the Joint Council for Qualifications to finalise the details around the plans for these Year groups this summer but we have been informed that they are putting together a comprehensive guide for teacher assessed grades. We do know that these grades will be based on a range of evidence which may be work that has already been completed as part of the course, alongside work that will be produced next term, demonstrating the student's performance on the subject content that they have been taught. Once we have the finer details of the requirements for grading we will share them with the parents/carers of students in Years 11 and 13 and the students themselves.

Every day that students attend, every lesson they engage in and every piece of work that they complete will help them to achieve the grades that will open doors to future life chances and enable them to progress to their desired destination next year. It is therefore sensible to target intervention and the requirement to attend period 6 to smaller groups of students to allow for a more personalised approach. Students and parents/carers will be contacted directly about which subject intervention their child will be required to attend for support. Intervention classes will finish at 4:10pm but if they are not required to attend, students will leave school at 3:20pm as normal.

Parents' Evenings

We will be holding two virtual parents evenings next half term:

- Thursday 6th May Year 10 4:00pm-7:00pm
- Thursday 20th May Year 7 4:00pm-7:00pm

Further details will be sent out to the parents/carers of students in those year groups about the procedures for these virtual events.

End of Term

The last day of term is Thursday 1st April and students return on Monday 19th April. Students are expected to wear normal school uniform on the last day and dismissal times are as follows:

- 12:20pm for Years 11, 12 and 13
- 12:30pm for Years 9 and 10
- 12:40pm for Years 7 and 8

Thank you for your continued support.

Yours sincerely

Mr Stuart Turnbull
Principal

