

26 February 2021

Dear all Parents & Carers,

I hope you found yesterday's letter and the information within in it useful. In terms of testing, I would really recommend you giving us your consent to test your child. I fully appreciate there may be caution and anxieties over the testing process itself, however I can assure you that we have prepared for students to be nervous about the process, and will have staff on hand to support and guide students through the process of testing.

Another reason for us to wish to test students next week, before they return to school, is that if they are nervous about completing a test, its better that they complete their first test away from the hustle and bustle of every day school life. By doing this slowly and securely next week, it allows us to take our time with the testing and ensure we can adequately support students, especially if they are nervous.

As I explained in yesterday's letter, today's letter is stage 2 of my communication, and will cover:

- First day back dates and times
- First day back plans
- Term 4 plans

### **Students first day back at school**

Students will start back at the Academy on the following days and at the following times...

**Monday 8<sup>th</sup> March: 9:30am – 9:45am – Year 10 & 11 students**

**Tuesday 9<sup>th</sup> March: 8:15am – 8:30am – Year 8 & 9 students**

**Wednesday 10<sup>th</sup> March: 8:15am – 8:30am – Year 7 students**

Once students have started back, they will remain in school from that point onwards.

In line with the government guidance, we have staggered our start back to school (like we did in September) so that we can ensure there is a balance between the organisation of testing, and a smooth and welcoming start back at the Academy.

On their first days back at the Academy, students will spend some time with their Form Tutors and will also have an Assembly. These will be in place so that students receive all the information they need about safety measures, but also so that they can ask any questions they need to before their lessons start, later during their first day.

As Year 8 and 9 students do not start back until Tuesday 9<sup>th</sup> March, and Year 7 students until Wednesday 10<sup>th</sup> March, we will be providing remote learning for those students on those days that they are not in the Academy. This work will be accessed via our normal platform, Microsoft Teams.

### **The School Day**

The school day has not changed from September – December, so the same times will be in place. As a reminder they are:

**Year 7, 8 and 9 students: 8:15am – 8:30am until 2:30pm**

**Year 10 & 11 students: 9:30am – 9:45am until 3:30pm**

As you can see, we have kept the 15-minute arrival slots in the morning so that we can safely transition the students into the school building. Can I please ask that students arrive during this 15-minute window and not before. Prior to Christmas, we had large numbers of students arriving well before the designated time when they did not need to. This ultimately will result in large numbers of students congregating and waiting for the opening time, which I am sure you will agree is not what we need at this current time.

Prior to Christmas, there was an intervention slot available for Year 11 students between 8:30am – 9:30am, where they had access to their own Study Area, teachers and academic tutors. I will explain in my stage 3 communication next week what this will look like and what will be available to students in both Year 10 and Year 11 during this time.

### **Term 4 Plans**

As you will appreciate, we have spent much of this lockdown preparing for an eventual return to school. This has often been difficult considering we have not known until last week, when students would return. However, we are now in a position to release to you, some useful information summarising what we will be focussing on for students in particular Year Groups.

#### **Year 11:**

We will take the time to fully explain to students, parents & carers the outcomes of the recent exams consultation and what this means for students GCSE grades and how they will be awarded in the summer. The key message is that the students still have goals to work towards and their Centre Assessed Grades will be awarded based on their performance in their subjects. In order to support them with this, and following advice from the exam boards, Year 11 students will sit another set of Mock Exams after the Easter Holidays. This will be in order to supplement their first set of mock exams back in October. We will confirm the exact weeks of these mock exams with you as soon as possible.

#### **Year 10:**

As Year 10 have not yet sat an official mock exam sitting (they were due just after Christmas) we really need to formally assess Year 10 students as soon as we possibly can. By assessing the students formally, we can quickly identify gaps in their knowledge and understanding caused by this disruption to education, and plan proactively and effectively for their benefit moving forward. Therefore, Year 10 students will start a mock exam sitting the week beginning Monday 15<sup>th</sup> March. My Deputy Principal, Mrs Treacy, will be writing to Year 10 parents & carers later today, giving you more information regards this plan.

#### **Year 9:**

In a similar picture to Year 10, at the right point, we will need to formally assess the students in Year 9 to analyse the progress they have made since the start of their GCSE courses. Students in Year 9 will sit their first mock exams in their subjects in June. We will be in touch after the Easter Holidays regards the specific plans for these exams.



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*A list of Directors is available for inspection at the registered office, Greenwood House, Private Road No 2,*

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### Year 8:

We understand that as a school who completes a 3-year Key Stage 4 (meaning students choose options in Year 8) we have to consider the disruption that both lockdowns have caused to Year 8 students Key Stage 3 curriculum. It would be foolish of us to press on quickly with the options process, considering that the students might not have had the time to consolidate appropriate knowledge and understanding from Key Stage 3. Therefore we have postponed the options process until after the Easter Holidays, firstly to give the Year 8 students some breathing space, but also so that we can work out when the best time would be for them to start the options process considering their progress.

### Year 7:

Year 7 students have not only had significant disruption to their transition from Year 6 to 7, but also the start to their Key Stage 3 curriculum. We appreciate that this will not only have affected their academic potential, but also key considerations such as their resilience and confidence. Therefore, we will be delivering some specific transition work over the weeks after their return, to try and provide them with that support and platform they need, in order to make accelerated progress at Key Stage 3.

As always, if you have any questions regarding the content of this letter please do not hesitate to contact us at the Academy, or your child's Year Team.

Yours Sincerely,



**Mr B Pearce**  
**Principal**



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### **Further information regards testing**

You can find further information which explains how your or your child's data will be used to process the test and the Privacy Notice, (both supplied by the DfE) on Greenwood Academies Trust website [www.greenwoodacademies.org](http://www.greenwoodacademies.org) then click on the tab for COVID-19 testing or by following the links below:

[Data Protection FAQs](#)

[GAT Privacy Notice](#)

[Privacy Notice for contact details](#)

### **What if a pupil tests positive?**

Participating staff and pupils who test positive will be informed about their results individually. Where participants are under 16, parents or legal guardians will also be notified. Guidance on safe travel and additional precautions will be provided along with test results.

Pupils will need to take a further 'PCR test' (similar to those done in local and regional testing sites) on the same day (or as soon as possible). You can go to [www.gov.uk/get-coronavirus-test](http://www.gov.uk/get-coronavirus-test) or can call 119 to book a follow-up test. If ordering a PCR test yourselves, they should choose to visit a drive-through test site if possible, as it is faster than requesting a home test.

During the time while they wait for the PCR result (via text/email), the students will need to self-isolate.

If the PCR test confirms a positive result you will have to self-isolate and follow the guidance from NHS Test and Trace.

### **What happens if the test is negative?**

They will be able to stay in school and resume their activities as normal. A pupil 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 of pupils may need to repeat the test if the first test was invalid or void for some reason.

### **What if my child develops symptoms?**

This testing programme at school is for people with no symptoms. If your child 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 (England, Wales and Northern Ireland) or 0300 303 2713 (Scotland) or visiting <https://www.gov.uk/get-coronavirus-test>.

We will support our staff and pupils throughout, but please contact us if you need this information in any other language or format or if you have any questions. You can call the office on 01733 821440.



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