

Dear parents,

I hope that you are well. I wanted to start by thanking you for your support this week. The arrangements for testing and getting all students back into the academy were complex, so thank you for getting your heads around that. It has been brilliant to see the students back in lessons, working hard and getting straight back into it. They have also handled being tested amazingly well.

Whilst the number of confirmed coronavirus cases has decreased both nationally and in the local area, sadly it has not gone away. Can I please remind you that you must not send your child to the academy if they are displaying any of the main symptoms which are:

- a new and persistent cough
- a high temperature
- a loss of or change in, their normal sense of taste or smell (anosmia)

### **Testing**

We are currently mid-way through test number two for those students who gave consent to be tested. Students will have three tests in the academy before moving to home testing. I will write to you next week with more information about home testing. In the meantime, you may have read that families and households with school age children can receive rapid flow tests to use in the home. You can collect lateral flow tests from a home test kit collection point or you can order them online. Further information can be found here:

<https://www.gov.uk/guidance/rapid-lateral-flow-testing-for-households-and-bubbles-of-school-pupils-and-staff>

You will be notified of your child's lateral flow test result via email and/or text. I am aware that not all of you are getting notifications; please rest assured that if the result was positive we will let you know.

### **Lunches**

Students will need to continue to bring a packed lunch next week. Lunches will be available to purchase from Monday 22 March.

### **Students isolating and remote learning**

Despite the lateral flow testing and wearing of face masks in classrooms as well as communal areas, as I outlined in a previous letter, the rules relating to close contacts and those contacts needing to isolate have not changed. Unfortunately, if we have positive cases in the academy then students will need to isolate. We are doing all that we can to limit students' interactions but obviously we cannot maintain social distancing in classrooms with all students back in the academy and students socialise on their way to and from school and at break and lunch times.

If students do need to isolate then we will invite them to Teams lessons. They must follow their normal timetable. Hopefully, this will help to provide real structure to students' days as well as helping them to feel more involved with what is going on in the academy.

As I said at the start, thank you very much for all that you have done to help us to get all students back into the academy this week; it has been a real team effort. I will write again next week.

Take care,  
Mrs R Coning  
(Head of School)