

Dear parents and carers,

As promised, I am able to share plans for the return of students to the academy from Monday 8 March. The testing of students brings with it an added complexity so please look carefully at the information below so that you know which day and what time your child needs to attend. Students will come in to the academy, have their test, wait for their result and then (providing it is negative) they will return to lessons. Students who are not being tested have separate times to arrive at the academy on the table below.

Students who have been accessing on site provision throughout the lockdown can attend the academy throughout this period of testing and we will slot them back into lessons with their classmates.

Students with consent for testing come in at the allotted time and go straight to the **dining hall**. Students without consent for testing come in at the allotted time and go straight to the **leisure centre**. **It is essential that students come in at the correct time. Whilst we cannot social distance all students, we are trying to keep groups separate.**

Year group	Day	Time (if being tested)	Time (if not being tested)
Y11 x band Tutor groups: MSO/SHA/STO/HSH/RDE/CAA/VFR	Monday	8.15am	9.30am
Y11 y band Tutor groups: AHN/JCG/JWI/RPI/HWO/SME/VGR	Monday	9.15am	10.45am
Y13	Monday	11.00am	12.40pm (straight to lessons)
Y12	Monday	1pm	Return on Tuesday for lessons
Y10 x band Tutor groups: CST/MWN/IM/STC/EPI	Tuesday	8.15am	9.30am
Y10 y band Tutor groups: ACR/ABL/MHT/KCA/RTH	Tuesday	9.15am	10.45am
Y9 y band Tutor groups: TMO/EDO/DTA/MDU/SCR	Tuesday	10.45am	12.30pm. They will need to have had lunch.
Y9 x band Tutor groups: KDI/TAN/TSH/LYA/DJO	Tuesday	12.45pm	Return on Wednesday for lessons
Y8 x band Tutor groups: SCT/KGA/LHL/ATA/JFO	Wednesday	8.15am	9.30am
Y8 y band Tutor groups: MPO/MGA/SPA/DPL/OGR	Wednesday	9.15am	10.45am
Y7 y band Tutor groups: CGL/NCO/SGA/DWS/MDA	Wednesday	10.45	12.00pm. They will need to bring lunch
Y7 x band Tutor groups: KMO/OGI/KGR/LVI/MBR	Wednesday	12.45pm	Return on Thursday for lessons

### **Home testing**

Students will be tested 3 times in the academy from Monday 8 March. Following this, from week beginning 22 March, students will have home test kits so that they can conduct the tests at home. We will send you more information when we have it.

### **Remote learning**

Remote learning has continued as usual this week. From Monday 8 March, whilst we get students back into the academy and conduct testing, there will not be any live Teams lessons. Lessons will all be set on Frog and all will include some teacher explanation. All students will be back in lessons full time from Thursday.

### **Safety in school**

Obviously, the safety of students and staff in the academy, continues to be our major priority. The safety measures that we had in place from September to Christmas will continue and as ever we need your support with this. These include:

- Ensuring that those with symptoms are not in school and that they seek a PCR test
- Staggered start and end times for students, with different gates being used
- The staggering of breaks and lunchtimes
- Students being based in year group zones in different areas of the academy
- Classrooms rearranged so that desks are facing forward
- Additional cleaning, especially of high frequency touch points and toilets
- The regular use of hand sanitiser
- The promotion of "catch it, bin it, kill it" approaches
- Ventilation of all spaces, in line with the guidance

### **The use of face masks in the academy**

As you know, for some time, we have all worn face masks in all communal areas of the academy. The most recent guidance has now stated that face masks should also be worn in classrooms where social distancing cannot be maintained; this would be the case in almost every classroom. Therefore, from Monday 8 March, students and staff will be expected to wear face masks in classrooms as well as in communal areas. Staff may be able to remove their masks in lessons, providing they can maintain 2 metres distance, so that they can give clear instructions and explanations. The new guidance has made it clear that visors are not a suitable alternative to masks.

### **Uniform**

From they return to the academy, students must be in full academy uniform.

### **PE**

**There will be no practical PE lessons until Thursday 11 March.** From Thursday onwards, we will revert to the procedures we had in place for PE last term. In an effort to minimise the use of changing rooms, we will introduce a one change rule. This means that if students have PE in the morning (periods 1, 2 or 3) they will need to come to the academy in their PE kit (with their blazer over the top). They will then change into their academy uniform after their PE lesson so it is essential that they have everything they need with them. If students have PE in the afternoon (periods 4 or 5) then they will come into

the academy in their normal uniform, change into their PE kit before their PE lesson and they will stay in their PE kit after their lesson.

### **Social distancing**

We have put in place lots of measures to try to limit the number of social contacts that all students have in the academy and we have tried to ensure that year groups are kept separate. Despite this, schools are social places and it is impossible in most classrooms when all students are in to social distance in lessons. If we do have positive cases in the academy, the guidance for close contacts of positive cases has not changed, we will still need to ask students to isolate who have been within 2 metres or less for more than 15 minutes or within 1 metre for a 1 minute or less. Whilst we are hoping to keep all of our students in the academy, I wanted you to be aware that due to advice about daily testing changing, students having to isolate is still a possibility.

### **Lunch**

The vast majority of our catering staff are now involved in testing. Therefore, for the next 3 weeks (until week beginning 29 March), students will need to bring a packed lunch. Please email your child's Head of Year by Friday if your child is on free school meals and you would like us to provide them with a lunch:

- Year 7: [s.barrett@macademy.org.uk](mailto:s.barrett@macademy.org.uk)
- Year 8: [l.jones@macademy.org.uk](mailto:l.jones@macademy.org.uk)
- Year 9: [c.ball@macademy.org.uk](mailto:c.ball@macademy.org.uk)
- Year 10: [h.richardson@macademy.org.uk](mailto:h.richardson@macademy.org.uk)
- Year 11: [s.baker@macademy.org.uk](mailto:s.baker@macademy.org.uk)

I know that there is a lot to take in and there are lots of new things for students to get their heads around with testing, as well as them remembering the routines that they were following before Christmas. I have updated and reattached the guidance from September to Christmas to help with some reminders. I have also recorded a broadcast for students which they can watch later this week. Hopefully, this will reassure them as well as giving them some prompts. As I have said before, we are very much looking forward to welcoming all students back to the academy. There is a lot of negativity about students being behind and needing to catch up and talk of a lost generation. When students return from 8 March, there will be no talk of that in the academy, instead we are moving forward; mapping out what students can do, seeing what they need to consolidate or revisit and then moving forward. We can't wait to start!

Take care,  
Mrs R Coning  
(Head of School)