

1st March 2021

Dear Parent/Carer

I would like to take this opportunity to again thank you for all of your support and doing such a phenomenal job in supporting the Academy and your children working from home over the last half term, students in every year group and every subject over the last half term completed some exceptional work. All of the staff and I are very much looking forward to seeing all of our students together after being apart for so long.

Now that we do have some further information, I would like to clarify some organisational points and answer some of the queries that we have received.

At any point during this return process, **students must not return to school if they or their family are showing any symptoms that are consistent with Covid-19** and must ensure a PCR test is completed in line with government guidance.

Arrangements for Mass Testing

To identify any asymptomatic students, the government have asked that we test all students three times as soon as possible. We would really appreciate your support in helping to ensure that we can keep our community safe by providing consent for your child to be involved.

The tests are the lateral flow, self-administered tests that we have been using very successfully with our keyworker students over the last couple of months. Staff in the testing station are fully trained and we have the support of the NHS with student nurses supporting us for your child's first test. You have been asked by email to complete an online consent form and this is essential in helping us process the tests. Please ensure that this has been completed before you send your child in for their first test. Results of the tests will be sent to the contact given on the consent form.

We will invite all students in to school for their first test, by form on the 5th, 8th or 9th March.

Years 11 and 10	Friday 5th March – please see attached for specific times for your Form
Years 9 and 8	Monday 8th March – please see attached for specific times for your Form
Year 7	Tuesday 9th March – please see attached for specific times for your Form

Your child will come in to school at the allotted time, be held in our sports hall in compliance with social distancing and will be escorted to the testing facility and then out of the building when **they will return home. If the result is positive, they will need to isolate for 10 days – they do not need a PCR test to confirm this result.**

When students are not attending school for a test they will be expected to maintain their current live lesson work schedule at home.

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Return to school

We will then be welcoming all students back in to school, by year group, the day after their first lateral flow test.

Students will then return to school fully at the identified times below and will start with an assembly, in their year group bubble, before returning to their normal timetabled lessons in school:

Year 11	Monday 8th March at 8.25
Year 10	Monday 8th March at 9.25
Year 9	Tuesday 9th March at 8.25
Year 8	Tuesday 9th March at 9.25
Year 7	Wednesday 10th March at 8.25

Once students have had their first test and are back in school, students will be tested again twice, we anticipate completing this process by the afternoon of the 17th March. After this, we understand that tests will be distributed to students for them to test at home and we will communicate these arrangements once we have received further information.

I would like to take this opportunity to share with you the additional measures that are in place at Stockport Academy in response to the coronavirus pandemic, many are continued from the Autumn term;

- Students will continue to follow a one way system within the school building.
- Students will revert back to their year group bubble - Students will enter the Academy and leave via different entrances consistent with their bubble. **Students will leave school at 2.40pm with Year 11 at 3.30pm after their EPS.**
- Students will sanitise hands on arrival to school and throughout the day at stations around the Academy.
- Students will continue to have split breaks and lunchtimes and will be encouraged, where possible, to be outside.
- The Academy will take opportunities to increase ventilation inside the building by having windows and doors open, where possible.
- As you will be aware the Academy will implement the use of lateral flow testing in order to ensure a safe transition for students back to school.
- You will be aware that government advice is for all students of secondary school age to continue to wear face masks in communal areas in and around school. In addition, students will be expected to wear face masks in classrooms – this advice will be reviewed by government for after the Easter holidays. Students should therefore bring an additional mask to school to enable a change of mask during the school day. Masks when not in use should be kept inside a sealed bag and inside zipped blazer pockets.
- We are aware that a number of students are already exempt from wearing face masks and have a card issued by the Academy to this effect. Students who believe that they are eligible for exemption, but do not yet have a card should see Mr Farquhar.
- We expect students to attend school every day. However in the event of unavoidable absence please contact, Mr Farquhar, Attendance Officer, as soon as possible either by email don.farquhar@stockport-academy.org or telephone 0161-286-0330 Ext 1057. Any absence due to symptoms that are consistent with Covid-19 must be reported to the Academy immediately so that we can respond appropriately. Students in the same household or with symptoms of Covid-19 will be expected to self-isolate in keeping with government guidelines.

Uniform, Behaviour and Attendance

In keeping with our high standards and expectations for all of our students I would like to take this opportunity to remind you that students should return to school from 8th March in full uniform; please see page 15 of our Academy planner for further information. I would like to draw your particular attention to the following;

- Trainers, or boots are not permitted – students should wear smart polishable black school shoes.
- Hoodies, jewellery, make-up or false nails are not appropriate for or permitted at school, these are banned items and will be confiscated if students are found to have them in school.
- The Academy reserves the right to determine what is acceptable in terms of uniform – including haircuts and colours. Shaved heads are not permitted, a number 2 is the shortest acceptable cut, shaved patterns or tramlines are unacceptable. Students hair should be a natural colour.
- Students will not be required to wear a PE kit for school on days that they have PE – there will be alternative arrangements in place for activity during these lessons or to facilitate changing.
- At Stockport Academy we pride ourselves on the highest standards regarding the behaviour of our students. Most of our students at the Academy are impeccably behaved, we expect nothing less of them. There are additional rules in place outlined above with regard to our response to Covid-19, we expect all of our students to work with us and fulfil our high expectations; students will attend an assembly in their first lesson back to school to remind them of these key points.
- The government have stated that all students are expected to return to school and that attendance is mandatory, the school day will start for all students once reintegrated at 8.25am.

Once again, I would like to thank you for your ongoing support and your positive feedback in relation to some of the measures that we have put into place over what has been an unprecedented year. The staff and I are really looking forward to “building back better” within the upcoming weeks and months.

Yours faithfully



Mrs J McCann
Principal