

Dear Parents

**Spring Term return for face to face teaching is delayed so that we can set up (LFT) . This will allow us to screen the whole Academy community for COVID-19 as we return. Students timetables will resume online on the 4<sup>th</sup> January then in the academy staggered as per the details below**

**Happy new year!** In the light of recent announcements from the Department of Education, I apologise that we must alter our start of term arrangements. The situation is changing fast so we are having to respond quickly and, uncomfortable though this is, I am hopeful that the new year brings us much closer to the end of the pandemic. I will therefore try to be as brief and clear as possible and split the information in to clear sections.

Our current plan is described below. We will respond to all new guidance as we receive it although I will try to keep major change announcements to my Friday newsletters, however **you will receive a personalised letter for each of your children with details of the mass COVID-19 test program**, how you can register them and give informed consent for them to take part and crucially when they are expected to come in for their tests

#### The Key Headlines are...

- **Teaching will start on the 4<sup>th</sup> January for ALL however, apart from minor exceptions, this will be virtually from home. Students please log in to teams for the first assembly of the year at 8.45**
- **Years 11 and 13 will return to the academy on Monday January 11<sup>th</sup>** but we would like them to attend for their first 'Lateral Flow Test' (LFT) on the 7<sup>th</sup> (Year 13) and 8<sup>th</sup> (Year 11) January
- **All other years will return to the academy on Monday January the 18<sup>th</sup>** but we would like them to attend for their first 'Lateral Flow Test' (LFT) on the 12<sup>th</sup> and 15<sup>th</sup> January (Year 7,10,12) on the 14<sup>th</sup> January (Year 8,9) see table below
- **Year 13 Students who have an exam on 6<sup>th</sup> Jan** will be supported to prepare online by the PE staff and will come in for the exam as if it was a normal school day
- **All other external vocational exams from wb 11<sup>th</sup> Jan will happen as planned** - students expecting vocational exams over the next two weeks, please see attached information for arrangements and support
- **Students whose parents come under the critical worker category** can be in from the 4<sup>th</sup> January at parent request, please email for a place as soon as possible to Mr Wilkinson at [phillip.wilkinson@open-academy.org.uk](mailto:phillip.wilkinson@open-academy.org.uk)

#### Teaching and Learning key information

- We would like all students to be up and logged in for form time at 8.40 on Monday 4<sup>th</sup> January. Teachers will be setting work and delivering learning through TEAMS according to students timetables.
- Learning **in the academy** will start for years 11 and 13 on the Monday 11<sup>th</sup> January. We will expect all these students in from 8.30 on the 11<sup>th</sup>. All other year groups will Learn from home as per their timetable.
- Learning **in the academy** for the rest for the year groups will begin on Monday the 18<sup>th</sup> January. We will expect all students in from 8.30 on the 18<sup>th</sup>
- At times there may be issues with providing online learning. All Key Stage 3 students have access to their Knowledge Organisers to practice from if there are technological hiccups along the way.

- There are no HUB sessions for most students **however some students might still be invited via TEAMS for some extra mentoring or extra support.** If your child is involved a TEAMS invite will be issued and appear in their calendar which can be found in the left hand panel of TEAMS.

### Week beginning the 4th January 2021 (Week A)

- All students will access remote learning through Microsoft Teams.
- Students follow their usual academy timetables and attend live support with their teacher during the timetabled lesson time (invite sent over Teams). Students should attend live lessons with microphone on and cameras off and use the chat facility.
- Teachers will share relevant resources and support via Microsoft Teams. Students will find this in either the files or Classnote for their class team.
- If students have problems logging into the system, they can use the Spring knowledge organiser that has been posted home. This contains all the relevant knowledge that students are learning with linked activities for every subject.
- All work will be checked for learning **through homework set according to the homework timetable (see attached).** Teachers will set and mark this homework in Microsoft Teams assignments.
- For all key stages there is also alternative learning available via our website such as Sam Learning, Seneca, Mathswatch etc.
- If students in KS4 or KS5 struggle to access online learning, they should use the revision materials and books they have been provided with by teachers to continue their work and reading. All pupil premium students have received revision guides for all their subjects in Y11.
- Please refer to our attached remote learning guide that explains our approach in more detail.
- Y10 and Y12 students were due to sit PPE's (Pre-Public Examinations) in classrooms from Monday 4th January. **These will now be postponed until students are back in the Academy and they are now scheduled from Monday 18th January 2021.**
- Y13 will be invited in for the first of their COVID-19 tests on Thursday 7<sup>th</sup> January in the afternoon
- Y11 will be invited in by form group at specific times throughout the day on Friday 8<sup>th</sup> January for their first COVID-19 test

### Week beginning the 11th January 2021 (Week B):

- Arrangements for remote learning are the same as above for the full week for all students EXCEPT Years 11 and 13 who will be back in the Academy for face to face teaching and following their usual timetables.
- We will be completing (LFT) of Years 11 and 13 on Monday 11th January. Students will be accompanied by their teachers to the Sports Hall to complete this process. **All Students must have a reading book with them** for use whilst waiting for testing processes to be completed.
- Please note students in all other year groups will be invited in by form group for the first of their COVID-19 tests during this week where they will be expected to attend either a morning or afternoon session for the purposes of COVID testing only. They must return home as soon as their test is completed
- Y7,10,12 will be invited in by form group at specific times throughout the day for the first of their COVID-19 tests on the 12<sup>th</sup> and 15<sup>th</sup> January
- Y8,9 will be invited in by form group at specific times throughout the day for the first of their COVID-19 tests on the 14<sup>th</sup> January their second test will be as they return on Monday the 18<sup>th</sup> January

**Week beginning the 18th January 2021 (Week A):**

- Y8,9 to have their 2<sup>nd</sup> test on Monday 18<sup>th</sup> and will remain in for their full return
- All students will be back in the Academy for face to face teaching and following their usual timetables.
- We will be completing LF tests for Years 8 and 9 on Monday 18th January. Students will be accompanied by their teachers to the Sports Hall to complete this process. Students are advised to ensure they have a reading book with them for use whilst waiting for testing processes to be completed.
- Year 9 are due to sit Examination Assessments in classrooms from this week. These will still take place as according to our assessment calendar.

**Initial 'Lateral Flow Test' (LFT) Testing information**

- **Please note it is vitally important that we remain vigilant. Please do not send your child in to the academy if they have been told to self-isolate, or if they are showing any symptoms of the virus.**
- You will receive a letter during the first week of term regarding our COVID-19 testing process
- Included with the letter will be the detail of the governments mass LF Testing program.
- It will highlight the purpose and process for testing outlining how we will aim to test all members of our academy community twice as they return to full time learning.
- As indicated above, we would like to complete the first tests for students before they return to lessons and to complete their second test at the latest on the day they are due to return to the academy full time
- Both the initial mass LF Test and the test and trace LFT process will require your consent and I hope you will give this freely and willingly to help us keep the community safe.
- The registration and consent processes will also be detailed in the letter you will receive this week including how you will be able to provide informed consent online, and how you will be able to register your child for their test.

**Initial 'Lateral Flow Test' (LFT) timetable\* subject to change as we develop provision**

***Year group will be sent specific invitation letters for your time slots and up until the 15<sup>th</sup> January year 7,8,9,10,12 will only be in for their testing slot (AM or PM) Yr 11 and 13 will remain in the academy from Monday the 11<sup>th</sup>***

	Mon-Weds	Thursday	Friday	Saturday Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wed	Thursday	Friday	Saturday Sunday	Monday
<b>Date: Time</b>	4th -6th	7th	8th	9th 10th	11th	12th	13th	14th	15th	16th 17th	18th
<b>9 am</b>	Set up	year 13 year 12 e	year 11		year 11	year 10	Staff 1	year 8	year 10		year 8
<b>1 pm</b>	Trial tests	Staff 1	Staff 2		year 13 year 12 e	year 7 & 12 no e	Staff 2	year 9	year 7 & 12 no e		year 9

If you have clinical experience and would like to offer voluntary support to this programme we may well have a role for you - please contact me via email on [jon.ford@open-academy.org.uk](mailto:jon.ford@open-academy.org.uk)

\*All testing will be subject to parental consent and will not occur without it

## Test and trace

Once everyone is tested, and everyone is back in the academy, we will need to continue to be vigilant, however, instead of requiring all close contacts of positive cases to self-isolate for 10 days, we will start the cyclical testing which should mean that close contacts will be able to continue in the academy as long as they undergo a test every morning when they arrive and remain negative

We will also be testing staff weekly from now on to ensure they remain virus free and to help keep them safe in the academy

## Exam groups - first week

- There are public exams for vocational students mainly 6<sup>th</sup> form starting next week. At present they are going ahead. Here are some key dates for the first week.
- Monday 4<sup>th</sup> / Tuesday 5<sup>th</sup> January  
Sport BTEC level 3 revision session on TEAMS. Invites have been sent.
- Wednesday 6<sup>th</sup> January  
Sport BTEC public exam. You will be 2m apart at all times including with your classmates. Further details will be given from Mr Richardson and Mrs Pickering before your exam.
- Thursday 7<sup>th</sup> / Friday 8<sup>th</sup> January  
HSC revision sessions on TEAMS for year 12. Followed by the public exam on Friday. Special revision session on TEAMS for year 13 for HSC and business.
- Lessons the week after are in person as the lateral flow tests should have been completed. Teachers will inform their classes about the revision schedules.
- Further information will be shared by your teachers during lessons next week

## Critical Worker Childcare

If you require critical worker childcare, please contact Mr Wilkinson as soon as possible. We will do all we can to provide a positive in school experience however please note your child will be accessing learning through our online teaching and learning offer - just on site, supervised within their year group bubble

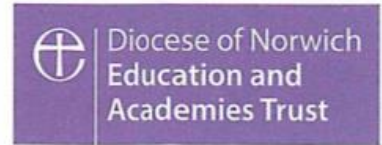
## Free School Meal

We believe that the government voucher scheme has been extended to cover the first two weeks of term through Edenred so you will continue to receive your vouchers as usual. If you need any support accessing the vouchers or have any queries please contact [jackie.appleby@open-academy.org.uk](mailto:jackie.appleby@open-academy.org.uk)

## A Final Effort Around Safety Is Now required

With the vaccination roll out starting to gather pace, and the LF Testing starting next week, we are getting closer to the end of this challenging pandemic. I would urge our whole community to hang in there and keep doing all you can to keep each other safe. We got through last term with just 3 confirmed cases and getting through the term ahead will hopefully see us through to safer times so please keep doing everything you have been to monitor the health of your children, and where you have been in doubt keep them at home / get them tested / follow advice.

I live in the hope that as this spring term ends and we arrive again at Easter we will be starting to shake off the COVID-19 shackles as a country, mourning our losses but re-starting in awareness of how amazing day to day life is, and how much we missed it during these tough times. It is not quite time yet to



look forward to seeing you in the pub or the Church or town, but perhaps we are not that far away now, as I said we live in hope!

I will aim to keep you updated with the developing situation as ever through my Friday newsletters and as always I will be delighted to receive your thoughts, feedback and comments

Kindest regards

Jon Ford