



3 December 2021

Dear Parents / Carers

In a letter I wrote to you last year, I noted the importance of communication and making sure you were well informed about what is happening at the Academy.

On Friday 26 November I wrote to all parents, carers, and governors, in relation to the reintroduction of face masks in communal areas. I was not aware the government would announce that this was the case for all secondary schools over the weekend, including that face coverings are also now required on dedicated school transport. I would like to thank you for the support you have demonstrated. Our students are a pleasure to teach and the support they have shown for this additional measure has also been recognised.

In a separate statement last Friday, an announcement which came after my letter had been sent to you, the government stated that all secondary schools will be required to test students for COVID on-site after we return from the Christmas holidays. According to the guidance which has been updated this week, students will be tested once when they return and should test again, at home, three to four days later. The guidance also requires schools to consider how we can limit interaction between students prior to their first on-site test.

Maintaining a full face-to-face provision while also undertaking on-site testing is extremely difficult and the need to limit interactions between students until they have been tested creates significant additional challenges. With this restriction in place, we will be arranging a staggered return to face-to-face learning during the first week back after Christmas with all students back in school from Thursday 6 January.

**Tuesday 4 January**      **Years 11, 12 and 13 to return to the academy.**  
**All other year groups will be taught remotely via MS Teams.**

**Wednesday 5 January**      **Years 7 and 10 to return alongside years 11, 12 and 13.**  
**Years 8 and 9 will be taught remotely.**

**Thursday 6 January**      **All students return to face-to-face learning**

One of the great benefits of the pandemic has been the improvement in our use of remote learning platforms. It is our intention that all year groups not on-site will receive full-time remote learning presented by their usual class teacher. All registers will be taken as usual and we expect all students to attend, either face-to-face as per the schedule, or remotely.

I understand that this is not ideal. However, in writing to you so soon after the government released the updated guidance, I am doing everything I can to keep you informed and help you to plan appropriately.

Once again, thank you for your support.

Yours faithfully

Mr S Frazer  
Principal

Learning Without Limits

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