



PARENT BULLETIN

FRIDAY 5TH MARCH 2021

Message from the Principal

As we prepare to welcome everyone back from Monday, I would like to thank all of our staff for finding ways to make it work during this and previous lockdowns. It is not fair to single people out but I have to pay a special tribute to the following groups:

- All of the teaching and pastoral staff who did a fantastic job to support and teach remotely. I believe this lockdown they exceeded all expectations.
- All of the staff who remained on site to keep the school running, not limited to but including those supporting the 70 students still on site despite everything else was going on.
- Everyone involved in the on-site COVID testing. The sports hall looked more like a nightingale hospital than a 5-a-side football pitch, and COVID is not in the job description of any member of staff, but it was genuinely inspiring how everyone stepped up to deliver over 300 tests per day this week.

My heartfelt thanks to all. Shaun Simmons.

We made it – thank you!

Whilst our students have worked incredibly hard throughout this period of lockdown and engagement overall has been excellent, the efforts and support of our parents and carers has not gone unnoticed. I would like to take this opportunity to thank you for helping us make remote learning a real success for our young people. Without your support of your child and us, we would not be in the position we are currently.

We understand that returning to the Academy is likely to raise a mixture of emotions for us all; excitement, relief, anxiety, happiness... the list could go on. Please know our staff have been preparing for this moment for some time and we will return with a sense of purpose, focus and support.

We cannot wait to have our students back and we look forward to working closely with you to ensure they continue to get the best education possible.

I read something recently from another educator which is so very pertinent and so I would like to share it with you:

"We will not talk about lost learning; instead we will talk about learning. We will not talk about 'catch up'; instead we will talk about progress and acceleration."

Roll on Monday!

Pastoral Support

Due to a number of anticipated staff absences related to COVID it has become necessary to review the pastoral teams and align them with likely teams for next year. We do not do this lightly and understand that it may seem like unnecessary change, but it is unfortunately essential. Of course where students have built relationships with their existing SDL, they will still be there for them during this period of transition.

When students return on Monday the pastoral teams will be as follows (staff in brackets supporting):

	Head of Year	SDL
Year 7	Miss Ball (Ms Cooper)	Miss Gill
Year 8	Ms Cooper (Miss Wood)	Mr Shell (Mrs Smith)
Year 9	Miss Wood	Mrs Winstanley
Year 10	Mr Doughty	Mrs Punnett (Miss Cox)
Year 11	Mr Doughty	Mrs Punnett

If you have any concerns regarding these changes, please contact Mr. Scrivener to discuss.

Ties

I would like to reinforce and clarify the message from last week regarding ties. **There is no expectation to buy a new one at this stage unless you need to**, but ideally by September we will have a consistent colour for each year group.

The tie colours are as follows, based on the year group your child is currently in and they will stay the same colour moving forward:

Year 7 Blue, Year 8 Green, Year 9 Red, Year 10 Yellow, Year 11 mixed.

A number of parents have asked about swapping ties with other students where this works, with obvious caveats around doing so COVID securely, this is fine with us, it is not our intention that any parent needs to buy an additional tie if it is unnecessary.



Year 9 Options

A huge thank you for supporting your child through the Year 9 Options Process. All students have now completed their Options Form with their preferred and reserve subject choices. We are currently reviewing these choices, suitability and viability of courses and will be in contact with you in the coming weeks. For now, we are focusing on getting our young people back into the building and preparing them as best we can for this exciting next step in their educational journey.

Years 10 and 12 – Vocational Courses Update

Some of the vocational courses our students study have external examinable units in Years 10 and 12, which unfortunately due to the lockdown restrictions, were cancelled. Whilst we believe these grades will be awarded similarly to GCSE and A-level grades with heavy reliance on teacher assessment, we are still awaiting the final outcomes of the Vocational and Technical Qualifications Consultation which concluded on 11 March. As soon as we have more information, we will of course update you.

Years 10 and 12 Assessment Week

Years 10 and 12 Assessment Week will run from Monday 15th March until Friday 19th March. Students will find our more details from their teachers this week.

Post 16 Monday 8th March

On Monday 8th March, all Post 16 students will need to be in school for Period 1 to meet with the Post 16 team.

WEEK B!

Please remind students that we return on a Week B and so they should be following their Week B timetable. On days when students have PE and Dance they should wear their kit to the Academy, where they do not have either of these subjects, they should be in full Academy Uniform.

Y11 & Y13 Examinations/Qualifications Update

A letter has been sent today providing further clarity on how GCSE, A-level and applied general qualifications will be awarded this summer. Please read the information within carefully as it should provide yourself and students with some answers to the many questions you may have. After reading this, should you have any further queries or concerns, please do not hesitate to contact us.

Year 11 End of Day Revision

Year 11 End of Day Revision will not recommence immediately upon our return. We will keep you updated.

Parentpay

Please ensure you top up your Parentpay lunch account ready for the return to school on Monday. Thank you

Accessing Remote Learning

Students who cannot attend the Academy due to self-isolation and/or shielding should continue to access their lessons remotely through Satchel:One. They should follow their normal Academy Timetable, accessing their lessons daily and uploading completed work for their teacher to review. Lessons/lesson resources and support materials will be uploaded daily for your child to access in line with what is being delivered to students who remain in the building. We are delighted that the vast majority of our students and indeed parents are now fully proficient using Satchel: One but should you have any issues, please do not hesitate to contact us.





COVID Testing

Huge thank you for supporting us with COVID Testing this week which will enable a smoother return for all students on Monday 8th March. Students will continue to receive their second and third tests when they return to us next week. Please see the schedule below:

Monday 8 th March	Tuesday 9 th March	Wednesday 10 th March	Thursday 11 th March	Friday 12 th March
Year 11 (2 nd Test) Year 9 (2 nd Test)	Year 7 (2 nd Test) Year 10 (2 nd Test)	Post 16 (3 rd Test) Year 8 (3 rd Test)	Year 11 (3 rd Test) Year 9 (3 rd Test)	Year 7 (3 rd Test) Year 10 (3 rd Test)

If a student with consent has not received their first test they need to go to the Leisure Centre entrance when they arrive at school on Monday so that we can check for consent and test. We will send you an appointment time via email, however, should your child arrive at school earlier due to public transport they should still go straight to the Leisure Centre and we will try to test them earlier. If your child has not followed the same schedule as their year group, we will ensure they receive a test within the 3-5 day testing window. After their third test, we will give students home testing kits and you will receive more information about this next week. If you have any queries, please get in touch.

Equipment Reminder/Classwork Books

To ensure students have the best possible start back to the Academy, I would ask that you support them over the weekend to get organised for their return. Students should pack their school bags according to their timetable (week B) with all of their necessary classwork books and resources. As a reminder, please see equipment checklist below:

- Two Pens
- Pencil
- Rubber
- Ruler
- Sharpener
- Calculator
- Glue Stick

Signs of Spring

Thank you for sending in your Signs of Spring photographs to celebrate the beauty and new life that Spring brings. Please see the winning entry from Jack in Year 10.

