

March 2021

Dear Parent/Carer

As we fast approach the return to the Academy from this latest, and hopefully the very last lockdown, I would like to take this opportunity to express admiration for how our school community has worked together in the face of immense changes to our lives and to the commitment to live lessons and working from home.

During this recent period of live lessons and studying from home, our staff have shown determination and resilience; not only ensuring their lessons are delivered to the very best of their ability but also supporting and caring for their own families and adapting to their personal challenges. I expressed my admiration for all in my letter to you at Christmas. I echo this same sentiment; we are passionate about 'getting it right' for our students, ensuring they are equipped with everything they need to succeed and thrive in life, and seek to bring out the best in them by having the highest of expectations of each and every one. We will continue to do this as we move swiftly in responding to the Government direction in getting all children back into school so they can continue to thrive and access the high quality learning they so deserve.

In order that we return safely on the 8th March, prepared and ready for learning, could I ask you all to ensure your child understands the following information:

Testing:

Consent:

We have continued to send out consent letters. We do highly recommend that you provide consent for your child to be tested, as advised by the scientists and Government directive. However, this is not compulsory. If you decide that your child will not take a test, then they will start lessons in the Academy at the designated time (see the enclosed table). For those students where consent has been provided, then they will be tested prior to going to lessons. They will await their test results, socially distanced in the Academy sports hall before going on to lessons should they have a negative test. If they are positive, then this will be dealt with in a sensitive manner and parents will be contacted immediately.

Registration:

For every consent given, a registration card will be posted out to all parents/carers so that a pre-registration can be done. The registration of students at the time of the test is time consuming and we hope that the time to do the test will not encroach on their time settling back into the Academy. Please where possible register the first test on-line. We will retain the duplicate barcode in the Academy so if you struggle to do this we will be able to on the day. Once registered you will receive the outcome of the test and the Academy results operator will also have this.

Test - 1 for Year 11 - Thursday 4th March

All students will return to the Academy week beginning the 8th March however, we would like Year 11 to have Test 1 prior to this date to allow them to settle into the Academy as swiftly as possible on Monday 8th March from 10am. I would therefore request that where convenient, year 11 students with consent to test, come into the Academy between 9am and 12pm to be tested. Allocated time slots will be text to all parents. These must be adhered to, to ensure we follow all social distancing guidelines. We also need to stress that we continue to be in a National Lockdown and students must follow all Government guidelines travelling to and from the Academy. Students do not need to be in uniform. Those that cannot come in for Test 1 on Thursday will have their test on Monday 8th March from 10am. However, it is strongly recommended that they take this opportunity to come in. If they do not, then they will test before going to lessons on Monday.

Whole Academy Testing:

All Year groups will return to the Academy with staggered starts. This enables a safe, well planned return but also ensures testing does not encroach on our plans for settling in every single student. We have specific programmes in place for all year groups and time with form tutors and Learning Managers during extended form time.

The table below outlines the plans and days for return:

- ❖ Year 7 and 11 Monday 8th March
- ❖ Year 9 and 10 Tuesday 9th March
- ❖ Year 8 Wednesday 10th March

Live lessons will finish on Thursday 4th March and lessons will be uploaded to the Google Classroom. Year 11 on Thursday **if in for testing** will be able to access google classroom work and will not have attendance penalised for non attendance. The plan for return is outlined below. All students are not to be in the Academy before their allocated start time. They should enter via the **Lower Academy Gate** and go to the year 7 / 8 playground. SLT and duty staff will be available to support and complete equipment and uniform checks on the purple line.

Date / Year	7	8	9	10	11
Monday 8th AM	Return 8.15am Form time 8.15am - 11am	Google lessons NOT Live	Google lessons NOT Live	Google lessons NOT Live	Return 10am Form time 10am - 11am
	Testing from 8.30am - 9.40am				Testing from 10am - 11am *Those who have not received Test 1
11am - PM	Normal Lessons		Google lessons NOT Live		
Tuesday 9th	Form Time 8.25am - 11am	Google lessons NOT Live	Return 8.15am Form time 8.15am - 11am	Return 9.45am Form time 9.45am - 11am	Form Time 8.25am - 11am
	11am onwards: Go to normal lessons		Testing from 8.30am 9.40am	Testing from 9.45am - 11am	11am onwards: Go to normal lessons
Wednesday 10th	Lessons as normal		Return 8.15am Form Time 8.25am - 11am	Form and lessons as normal	Form and lessons as normal
		Testing from 8.30am - 10am			

Uniform Reminders:

Uniform standards are important for the Academy. Our shoe policy is clearly stated on page 23 of the Academy planner and states shoes should be plain black and free of embellishments. Gold logos, edging and other small splashes of colour are also in breach of our policy. With regards to other aspects of uniform: socks must be plain black, hair bands/bobbles must be plain black or purple, and should not be worn on wrists when not in use. Jewellery is not permitted. Any coat worn must be large enough to go over the blazer.

Equipment - pencil cases (see the back of the letter for equipment)

While the majority of students are well equipped, bringing in the appropriate items for their wide range of lessons, there remains a significant minority who do not bring pens, pencils, rulers etc. As an Academy we have been lending out equipment to students but due to cleaning requirements and some students not looking after equipment, we are now requesting that all students have a pencil case with the relevant stationery. We asked prior to Christmas that this was on a Christmas list and that all students would be equipped and ready. Any families struggling will be supported. Do email us if this is the case. enquiries@bishopsgarth.outwood.com

Masks

I would like to thank all parents for their commitment to ensuring the Government Guidelines on masks has been embraced. However, there is a small minority of children who regularly do not have a mask when they turn up to school. We have been giving out masks since the beginning of term and this has now proved very costly. It is parents' responsibility to ensure your child has a mask for school. If your child is one that regularly forgets their mask, then could I ask that you drop a pack of masks into reception where we can hand these out should the need arise. This way we can save resources for students' learning rather than unnecessary spending on masks. This will be really helpful. At the Purple Line every morning we complete the following checks: Planner, Uniform, Mask and Pencil Case. This will help students to become organised for their working lives and prepared for their lessons. I am sure you will support the Academy in the drive to ensure lessons start promptly with all students prepared for lessons.

Attendance and Punctuality

We thank you for your continued support in ensuring your child attends the Academy each day. Now more than ever, attendance is key to ensure students access all lessons and subject content to increase their life chances.

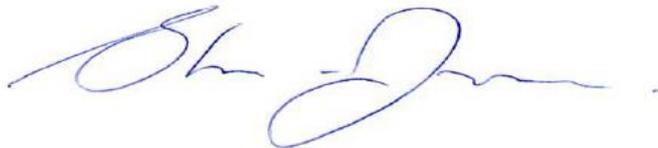
All students on a normal Academy day are expected to be through the Academy gates by 8.15am and in their tutor rooms by 8.25am. We will continue to drive attendance and punctuality, if necessary issuing reports to monitor this.

We will continue to support all students and families during these unprecedented times, so please contact the Academy to discuss any issues you may have around the attendance of your child.

Once again, I would like to thank you for your continued support. Your patience and resilience at this challenging time. Please stay safe.

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Yours faithfully



Mrs Hutchinson-Jones
Principal

Pencil Case Equipment - recommendations

Equipment recommendation:

- Biro: Black, Red, Blue, Purple
- Ruler
- Pencil
- Coloured pencils
- Rubber
- Protractor (maths department will also have maths specialist equipment)
- Any additional items- student choice