

23rd February, 2021.

Dear Parents and Carers,

May I start by thanking you for your support over the past half term. I am very pleased to be writing to you with some positive news.

You will probably have seen or read the news stories about schools being asked to implement a return to school for all pupils **from** Monday 8th March. I am writing to you today to explain how we intend to respond to the government announcement.

In order to ensure that we can comply with government guidance regarding the need to conduct Lateral Flow testing (LFD) and ensuring the safest return possible, we will operate a **phased return plan from 8th March**. In essence this means it allows us to conduct one LFD test for each consenting student before they return to our academy. For us, this equates to thousands of tests we have to administer before students can return to school.

In summary, this means for us:

- The academy will continue to remain open for **vulnerable and critical worker** students, however from Monday 8th March these students will return to their original bubbles.
- A schedule of LFD testing and phased return for students will commence Monday 8th March (see plan below). Remote learning will remain in place during this period for when students are not in the academy.
- From Monday 15th March, all students should come into the academy as they did prior to this most recent lockdown and will remain in their same bubbles and staggered start/finish times.
- All consenting students will take part in two further LFD tests after they have returned.
- In addition to students wearing a face covering in communal spaces, students will now be required to wear face coverings whilst in the classroom (exemptions still apply), this is a temporary extra measure.
- School-led 'Test & Trace' will re-commence upon students return.

LFD testing programme

Testing for those without coronavirus symptoms is now well established at the academy with over 700 tests already being carried out on staff and students, using lateral flow devices. As you will be aware, up to one third of people who have coronavirus are asymptomatic. LFD testing helps to reduce the spread in school settings through asymptomatic transmission. The government announced that students will need to have **three** LFD tests; **one** prior to students recommencing on-site provision. After the three on-site tests the latest government guidance is that parents/carers will be asked to test their children at home twice a week using rapid tests. At the time of writing this I am awaiting further clarification on how this will be rolled out.

I am strongly encouraging those students returning to the academy to be tested and if you have not already given consent please do so, using the following link, <https://forms.gle/A9aoxMjHofDD6uBs9> this will take you to a form where you have the option to consent or decline (you will also receive a text with this link). We require **ALL** students to complete this form (one form per student that attends the academy). We will continue to register students with NHS Test & Trace and the results will be shared directly with the person named on the consent form.

If a student tests positive on a lateral flow device test, they will be informed immediately by the academy and then will need to self-isolate for 10 days and follow the guidance from the NHS. We will notify you to come and collect your child. If either a staff member or student is identified as a close contact of a positive case they will be notified and will need to self-isolate immediately for 10 days and follow the published guidance.

Phased Return & Testing Plan:

All consenting students will need to have their first test prior to attending/returning to the academy. We will have testing sites on Dove & Trent initially. You will get an invite to book a testing slot via an individual letter issued later this week regarding how you can do this. Students will be expected to attend the appropriate site at the allotted time (colours indicate lanyard/bubble colour) and then to return home immediately after their test. Upon receiving a negative result, students can return to the academy the following day.

Our proposed schedule for phased return and testing:

Date	Dove Testing Site	Trent Testing Site
Mon 8th March	Y10	Y11
Tue 9th March	Y12	Y13 & 9C (Light Blue)
Wed 10th March	8P (Purple) 8W (Red)	9P (Green) 9W (Yellow)
Thu 11th March	7C (Blue) 7P (Green)	7W (Yellow) 8C (Orange)

Therefore Students Return Dates are (following negative LFD result/students who have not consented):

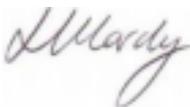
Tue 9th March	Y10 Y11
Wed 10th March	Y12 Y13 9C (Light Blue)
Thu 11th March	8P (Purple) 8W (Red) 9P (Green) 9W (Yellow)
Fri 12 th March	7C (Blue) 7P (Green) 7W (Yellow) 8C (Orange)

If your child develops symptoms at any time (including a high temperature; a new, continuous cough; or a loss or change to their sense of smell or taste) they must immediately self-isolate, and book a test by calling 119 or visiting <https://www.gov.uk/get-coronavirus-test>. If your child tests positive, please inform the academy immediately using the email covidpositivecase@deferrers.com.

I cannot stress enough to all our parents/carers that if we are to maintain the safety of our academy community that consenting to your child taking part in the LFD testing is vital, therefore if you have not already completed the consent form, please do so as a matter of urgency.

Thank you for supporting us and we look forward to seeing our students return to the academy from 8th March. I am so pleased that we will be able to re-commence face to face provision.

Yours sincerely



Mrs K D Hardy
Principal