



26 February 2021

Dear Parent / Carer

Re: Academy re-opening

We hope this finds you well and you are staying safe and healthy.

We are delighted to be able to start to welcome students back to the Academy from Monday 8 March and would like to take this opportunity to outline the plans for our re-opening. We would also like to say how proud we are of our students and the resilience they have shown during this changing climate.

As you will be aware, schools are required to put in place asymptomatic testing. To facilitate the expectation that each student will be tested three times during the first two weeks of re-opening, there will be a phased re-opening.

Testing

If you have consented to testing, an appointment card for your child will be posted to you identifying your child's three testing appointments. If you haven't yet consented but would like to, please find the link to the consent form on our website. If a student misses their testing appointment, there will, unfortunately, not be another opportunity to repeat this test. Children will be self-administering their test supervised by an adult. Your child will be given a testing card which will contain a unique barcode. Parents can use this barcode to register on the NHS website to receive a text notification of their child's result. The Academy will only inform you if your child is positive.

We would like to make it clear that testing is voluntary, your child will not be tested unless they (if they are aged over 18) or you (or another parent/carer) have given informed consent. We strongly encourage you and your child to take part to help us break chains of transmission and manage the virus. Your child will not be stopped from returning to the Academy if you or they choose not to be tested or are not able to undertake a test.

For the first test, students will enter the Academy at the sports centre gate and will be sign-posted to the test centre. On the day of their first test, students will return home immediately after their first test.

During the week beginning 8 March, students will be expected to access remote lessons until they return to face-to-face lessons. The schedule for when students will return to full-time face-to-face lessons is detailed below:

Return schedule: * If you have not consented to testing your child must remain at home on the testing day.

YEAR GROUP	FIRST TEST DATE – BY APPOINTMENT ONLY *	ACADEMY RETURN FOR FACE-TO-FACE LESSONS IN THE ACADEMY
10	Monday 8 March	Tuesday 9 March
12/13	Monday 8 March	Tuesday 9 March
9	Tuesday 9 March	Wednesday 10 March
11	Tuesday 9 March	Wednesday 10 March
7	Wednesday 10 March	Thursday 11 March
8	Wednesday 10 March	Thursday 11 March

The Academy will continue with its staggered start and finish times to help reduce the congregation of students and reduce the opportunity to mix with students outside of their own year group bubbles:

Year Group	Start time	Finish time	Entry and Exit point
7	8.30am	2.50pm	Sports centre gate
8	8.30am	2.50pm	Main gate
9	8.40am	2.55pm	Main gate
10	8.40am	2.55pm	Sports centre gate
11	8.50am	3.00pm	Sports centre gate
12/13	8.55am	3.05pm	Main gate

As a community, it is important we continue to do our utmost to reduce the further spread of Covid-19. With this in mind, we would like to take this opportunity to remind you of our operating procedures (OP) and the health and safety measures (RA) in the Academy. Full details of our OP and RA can be found on our website [here](#).

- Students work in year group bubbles and these remain in place
- Academy start and finish times will be staggered
- Separate year group entrances to the Academy building
- Different breaks and lunchtimes to provide the opportunity to social distance
- Separate yard space for year groups
- Enhanced cleaning routines, including hand sanitiser stations at all entrances and Classrooms:
- The hand washing or hand sanitising regime will now include
 - On arrival
 - After breaks
 - On room changes
 - After eating
- Student bubbles will pass in some corridors during the five-minute changeover, whilst wearing masks
- Classrooms used for multiple use will be sanitised before students enter
- Unless social distancing can be maintained in classrooms, then students and staff must wear facemasks in classrooms
- All students and staff will be required to wear a face covering **in communal areas** (inside the building). In effect, this will be when changing lessons or going to collect food during lunch. The student does not need to wear a face covering when eating. The face covering must be worn when not eating in the dining room and in communal areas
- Where a student has a medical exemption, evidence will be required. Please speak to the year team.
- Students will not be required to wear a face covering for practical lessons where a face covering would impact on their ability to take part in exercise or strenuous activity
- Practical changing facilities are now in use. Students must wear face coverings at all times in this area
- Students must attend the Academy in full school uniform and bring their PE kits to change into on their PE days
- Visors are **not** now considered as an effective face covering and masks should be worn (visors may also be worn if preferred)
- When removing the face coverings students must ensure they do not touch the inside of the covering and store safely in a plastic bag
- Students will be taught in subject specific classrooms and will need to walk on the left when moving between lessons.
- Every student will be provided with an outdoor locker and will need to leave their coat in the locker provided to help reduce the risk of carrying unnecessary equipment in the building

Home learning:

When students are self-isolating due to Covid-19, staff will provide live online lessons where possible via Teams. Where this is not possible, teachers will set appropriate work for students to complete, also by Teams.

Mandatory attendance means that it is your legal duty as a parent to send your child (if they are of compulsory school age) to school regularly if they are registered at one.

Buses

The schedule for the buses for students from Yaxley is as follows:

Time	ST04
08:30	Opposite Broadway Garage (Bus Stop)
08:31	Broadway, top of Middleton's Road
08:32	Broadway shops
08:34	Broadway, top of mere view
08:35	Yaxley, Station Approach
08:45	Stanground

Covid-19 symptoms guidance

We would also like to share with you the guidance the Academy follows and would ask that you support us with this to help reduce the potential spread of any infection.

You should not send your child to the Academy if they:

- have symptoms or live in a household with someone who has symptoms
- have tested positive themselves, even if they do not have symptoms
- live in a household with someone who has tested positive, even if that person does not have symptoms
- are a close contact of someone who has coronavirus (Covid-19)
- are advised to self-isolate for 10 days because they have been in close contact with someone who has tested positive for coronavirus (Covid-19), but are not showing symptoms themselves and has still had a negative test result.

Your child does not need a test if they:

- have a runny nose, are sneezing or feeling unwell, but do not have a temperature,
- cough or loss of, or change in, sense of smell or taste
- are advised to self-isolate because they have been in close contact with someone who has tested positive for coronavirus (Covid-19), for example, another pupil in their class, but are not showing symptoms themselves

What if your child tests positive?

Participating staff and students who test positive will be informed about their results individually. Where participants are under 16, parents or legal guardians will also be notified. Guidance on safe travel and additional precautions will be provided along with test results.

Students will need to take a further 'PCR test' (similar to those done in local and regional testing sites) on the same day (or as soon as possible). You can go to www.gov.uk/get-coronavirus-test or can call 119 to book a follow-up test. If ordering a PCR test yourselves, you should choose to visit a drive-through test site if possible, as it is faster than requesting a home test.

During the time while they wait for the PCR result (via text/ email), the students will need to self-isolate.

If the PCR test confirms a positive result you will have to self-isolate and follow the guidance from NHS Test and Trace.

What happens if the test is negative?

They will be able to stay in school and resume their activities as normal. A student will only be told if they test positive on a lateral flow test, so if you do not hear you can assume it was negative. A small number of students may need to repeat the test if the first test was invalid or void for some reason.

This information has been taken from the Department for Education Guidance for parents on returning to schools. The Academy will be following these directives without exception. Further information is available at: <https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/Covid-19-stay-at-home-guidance/stay-at-home-guidance-for-households-with-possible-coronavirus-Covid-19-infection>.

If your child or anyone in the household does develop symptoms, you can seek further advice from NHS 111 at <https://www.nhs.uk/conditions/coronavirus-Covid-19/symptoms/> or by phoning 111.

As a community, we can also help reduce the risk of spreading Covid-19 by:

- washing your hands with soap and water often – do this for at least 20 seconds
- using hand sanitiser gel if soap and water are not available
- washing your hands as soon as you get home
- covering your mouth and nose with a tissue or your sleeve (not your hands) when you cough or sneeze
- putting used tissues in the bin immediately and wash your hands afterwards

We do understand there will be a range of emotions as we prepare for wider re-opening, some of you will be excited and some of you may be anxious. However, we know we will all be pleased to see our students return to the Academy. However you are feeling, please remember we are always here to support you.

Yours faithfully



Gary Carlile
Principal