

27 February 2021

Dear Parent/Carer,

Sorry for sending you my next update on a Saturday but I appreciate both parents and students are keen to find out the plans for week commencing 08 March 2021. It's been a busy week as you can imagine!

Plan for Return to the Academy

Please find below, an outline of the plan for the return of all students to the Academy, following their first lateral flow test.

Year 11

Monday 08 March – Year 11 students come in at an allocated time to be tested.

Tuesday 09 March – Year 11 students return to school for face-to-face teaching.

Year 10

Monday 08 March – Year 10 students come in at an allocated time to be tested.

Tuesday 09 March – Year 10 students return to school for face-to-face teaching.

Year 9

Tuesday 09 March – Year 9 students come in at an allocated time to be tested.

Wednesday 10 March – Year 9 students return to school for face-to-face teaching.

Year 8

Tuesday 09 and Wednesday 10 March – Year 8 students come in on an allocated day / time to be tested.

Thursday 11 March – Year 8 students return to school for face-to-face teaching.

Year 7

Wednesday 10 March – Year 7 students come in at an allocated time to be tested.

Thursday 11 March – Year 7 students return to school for face-to-face teaching.

This means that all students will return to the Academy and face-to-face teaching by **Thursday 11 March 2021**.

Please note that you will be informed of the test time for your child, via a separate email, in due course. Remote learning will be provided for students to complete, during the time they are not attending the test venue.

Attendance

The Department for Education's guidance states that school attendance will be mandatory for all pupils from 08 March 2021. The usual rules on attendance will apply, including parents' legal duty to secure their child's attendance at school. The ability to issue sanctions such as fines will also be reinstated, and schools will be responsible for recording attendance, following up absence and reporting children missing education to the local authority. We are looking forward to seeing your child back in school; any issues please follow reporting absence procedures as we will be following up all absences.

Behaviour, Uniform and Expectations

Year group bubbles will remain in place. Parents / carers should refer to the Behaviour Policy and the Behaviour Policy Addendum Covid-19. Students will be required to attend in full school uniform. On days where students are timetabled for a practical subject, such as PE or Performing Arts, they should attend in PE kit. In this respect, the rules regarding school uniform are unchanged from Term 1.

Testing

The Department for Education's guidance states that pupils will return to face-to-face education following their first negative test result. Pupils not undergoing testing (where parents have opted out) will attend school in line with our phased return arrangements. After an initial programme of three tests in school, students will be provided with two rapid tests to use each week at home. We will provide guidance on how these tests can be conducted at home and what parents will need to do at a later date. Our testing has been highly successful so far and we are upscaling this provision, and staffing, to ensure all staff and students can be tested prior to their return to the Academy.

Year 11

The government has started to provide some more information regarding how the grading of year 11 students will work this year. Once we have had a chance to analyse this, we will conduct another parent information session online that will hopefully provide you with the answers to any questions you may have.

Safety

To ensure the safety of all our students and staff, the following system of controls (in line with the DFE operational guidance) will be implemented to effectively reduce the risk of transmission in school and create and inherently safer school environment:

- We will minimise contact across our school site and maintain social distancing by re-implementing our separate year group walkways, entrances and exits, which we implemented at the start of the school year. Students will remain in their year group zone and classroom bubbles which we implemented at the start of the school year.
- Students and staff will wear face coverings when moving around the school building, such as in corridors and communal areas, as well as in classrooms where social distancing can't be maintained. This does not apply in PE lessons or for students and staff who are formally, medically exempt from wearing face coverings.
- Students and staff will clean their hands thoroughly when arriving at school at the start of the day, when they return from toilet breaks, when they change rooms, before and after eating and on departure from school at the end of the day.
- We will continue to ensure good respiratory hygiene for everyone by promoting the 'catch it, bin it, kill it' approach and the cleaning of hands afterwards.
- We will maintain the enhanced cleaning procedures started at the beginning of the school year, including cleaning frequently touched surfaces often.
- We will ensure occupied spaces in school are well ventilated at all times.

Face Masks

DfE Guidance (February 2021) states that in order to prevent the transmission of COVID-19 that schools must "ensure face coverings are used in recommended circumstances". The DfE are recommending that all students and adults wear a face covering in all areas including classrooms, corridors, communal areas and any others where social distancing cannot be maintained. This does not apply in situations where wearing a face covering would impact on the ability to take part in exercise or strenuous activity, for example in PE lessons. It is the expectation of Castle View Enterprise Academy that this recommendation is followed by both students and adults in order to protect each other and reduce the possibility of transmission.

Extra-Curricular

During this period of lockdown, CVEA has offered students an extensive "virtual" extra-curricular provision. In the government guidance for the reopening of schools it was great to see that extra-curricular activities can take place in schools. Therefore, from Monday 15th March, a broad programme of extra-curricular activities will be introduced for students to take part across a range of subjects including the return of Sports and Performance clubs. Further information about all the clubs and activities on offer will be shared with parents and students in due course.

Breakfast Provision

Throughout this period of lockdown we have continued to support all families by providing FREE access to healthy breakfast provisions. The collection of FREE breakfast provisions of bagels and cereal will continue to be available for collection from main reception Monday to Friday between 1.00 pm and 3.00 pm, until Friday 05 March. From Monday 08 March, our breakfast provision will be phased back to its usual way of working within the Academy. Breakfast club will start with Year 9 on Wednesday 10 March and for years 7-9 from Thursday 11 March. The provision will then run weekly as normal Monday-Friday between 8.15am and 8.45am.

Parents' Evenings this Half Term

During this half term, there will be a Parents' Evening for the parents and carers of students in years 9 and 10. Following our successful launch of the School Cloud virtual Parents' Evening App with the parents of year 8, earlier in the year, we will shortly send out your personal invitation to schedule some appointments with your child's subject teachers. We will send your invitation directly to your email address. Once you have logged into the school site on the App, you will be able to state when you are available during the parents' evening and then prompted to select the appointments you want during this time. The App will arrange a schedule for you. The benefits of using the School Cloud App for parents' evenings are numerous. The fact that we can fulfil COVID-19 safety guidelines, take away your need to queue up and wait your turn, and do parents' evening from the comfort of your home, are just a few to mention.

Year 10 Parents' Evening will be on Wednesday 17 March 2021 between 4.00pm and 7.00pm.

Year 9 Parents' Evening will be on Wednesday 24 March 2021 between 4.00pm and 7.00pm.

Thank you for your continued support.

Yours faithfully



Mrs J Owens
Head of School

