



Joseph Leckie  
Academy

Friday 10<sup>th</sup> December 2021

Dear Parents/Guardians/Carers,

**Key Information for all parents/guardians/carers - Phased return to school from Tuesday 4<sup>th</sup> January 2022**

As you are aware from the latest national announcements and Government advice, schools are being asked to carry out asymptomatic testing for all secondary school students again on their return in January 2022. We have been allowed to phase students return until all students have been tested once. Rapid testing is one of the strategies to help keep everyone safe and Public Health England and the Department for Education are asking all schools and parents/guardians/carers to support in these measures. The Government strongly **encourages all students to participate in this programme to help break the transmission**, especially after the Christmas break to ensure everyone's safety on return and to reduce the transmission of the new Omicron variant. **We are asking for your support to encourage your child to do the test on return.**

The significant majority of you have already signed up to the asymptomatic testing programme last year, showing how much you valued this measure for your child's safety and that of their peers and staff. We do not need you to re-sign parental permissions, unless you inform us otherwise. Those that signed up have continued to get their child(ren) to test twice weekly and we appreciate all your efforts to keep everyone safe. **Please can we encourage you to continue to test twice weekly and record results over the Christmas holidays, especially prior to their return in January. Your child should test at least the day before they are due to return and then on site on the stated day of their return.**

Test kits are available before the end of term from your child's form teacher. **It is essential that they collect these before the end of term and protect families over the festive period.**

If you previously did not consent and have decided to do so, please complete the form on the link below. If for any reason you cannot access the online consent form, please ask your child to get a consent form from Reception and return so that we can register your child. If you are unable to do this there will be a different time slot for students who need to register on the day.

**We appreciate your cooperation and support in this and would encourage you to sign the consent and allow your child to be tested for the safety of others. Parental Consent link for any student who has not given consent: <https://www.josephleckieacademy.co.uk/covidtesting>**

**Testing will commence by year group as stated in the table and information sheet**, your child should arrive at their designated form group's time, whether or not they have consented. Students will be kept apart until test results are known. This is a phased return to enable us to test safely and students will return to their lessons following their negative test result as outlined below and remain in school after this.

**PLEASE ENSURE YOU HAVE READ THE ATTACHED INSTRUCTIONS CAREFULLY, AS NOT ALL YEARS ARE IN EVERY DAY. Where students are not in school they will be set work to do at home (remotely) so they will need to access a computer/laptop/tablet on these days.** If they do not have access to a computer/laptop/tablet, we will send a work pack home, if the Academy has previously sent your child a work pack, we will send one for January 2022. If your child is in Year 7 and they do not have access to a computer/laptop/tablet, please do let Mrs Etches know this week, so we can arrange for work to be given to your child before the Academy closes for the Christmas break on the 16<sup>th</sup> December.

**Specific times for students' form groups to return will be given to your child next week and also an email will be sent to them. This will also be available on our website. Please note that some students will return after their normal lunchtimes, so please provide a meal for them from home where this is the case.** If your child is entitled to a Free School Meal, please contact the Academy Reception in the morning between 9am and 10am and we can arrange for a packed lunch, which you can collect from Reception from 12.15pm.

**Your child** should arrive at their designated time slot for testing via the **West End (old) Academy Reception Entrance** (in the old building) and line up with their form group whilst maintaining social distancing. They should wear masks unless exempt. Upon entry they will be registered, given their barcode/test card and then complete their lateral flow test with the support of staff. Students who have not consented to testing should arrive at the same time as the rest of their form group. They will be advised where to wait until the remainder of their form group is released to lessons.

Once they have been tested students will go to class and they will remain in school and return the following day for their form time through the normal gates and will have lessons as normal. However, if they test positive, we will notify parents/guardians/carers and your child should be collected, you will need to contact the NHS and follow NHS advice.

Students will be provided with home testing kits so that they can complete these each week at home. They must upload results to the Academy SharePoint site and the NHS site. This will continue until further notice. **We recommend this is done every Sunday and Wednesday.** Can we please ask for your support to ensure your child continues to test regularly. We all need to play our part in trying to reduce the spread of COVID-19, especially the new Omicron variant, which is rapidly spreading.

Please can I remind you that your child **should have a mask on at all times in all communal areas** (unless medically exempt, which will be indicated on their school pass). This is the same as when people go into shops and on public transport and is an additional Government measure to reduce the current spread of COVID-19. Please can you reinforce this with your child for the remaining week and prior to their return in January.

Please have a happy Christmas and New Year and stay safe.



Rachel Cook  
Vice Principal



### Joseph Leckie Academy

Walstead Road West, Walsall, West Midlands WS5 4PG

**Principal:** Mr James Ludlow

**Tel:** 01922 721071 **Fax:** 01922 641497

**email:** [postbox@josephleckieacademy.co.uk](mailto:postbox@josephleckieacademy.co.uk)

**web:** [www.josephleckieacademy.co.uk](http://www.josephleckieacademy.co.uk)