



Joseph Leckie Academy

5th March 2021

Dear Parents/Guardians/Carers

Week beginning 8th and 15th March 2021 Return to School and Key information for students

I am writing to you to reinforce and reassure you that we are ready to re-open the Academy fully for all students again from 15th March following the latest National Lockdown and the week of testing on 8th March and that we have followed Government guidance. Please refer to my previous letters and the latest student protocol document on the website to give you more details of how we have prepared and the safety measures that we have in place to reassure you. We are really looking forward to seeing your child again either next week for testing or for full return on 15th March.

Thank you to all parents who have consented for your child to be tested. There has been an excellent response to this initiative and I would like to thank you for your support of the Academy through this safety measure. **Please refer to my letter on 2nd March for details of your child's day(s) of return if they are being tested.** There will also be specific emails to students who are being tested via email and schedules on the website. Please ensure that you are aware of this so that you do not send your child on the wrong days. **A summary of the testing days including vulnerable/key worker students can be found at the end of this letter.**

We expect all students (except any students who are extremely critically vulnerable who will have had NHS letters) to return on 15th March. There will be an extended tutor activity on that day to reinforce our revised protocols and behaviour expectations to ensure students are kept safe. **For students who are at home and who are not being tested during the week commencing 8th March**, (either whilst you wait for test days or because your child is not being tested), work will be provided remotely. **Students must be available for lesson work at normal timetabled time and complete work set either via email or on SharePoint or some Teams/live lessons.**

As always, we have followed government guidance and the recommendations from Public Health England (PHE) that we have been asked to follow with regard to safety measures to protect students and all staff in addition to our own high safety expectations. There are only a few changes necessary, as we had already had strict measures in place which had been working well and have minimised the number of cases in the Academy. In order to ensure rates continue to reduce in the local area and for the safety of your child, their peers and Academy staff, we ask that you re-read this guidance and the changes and ensure you support us with reinforcing these with your child before they return. You are fully aware of the revised Academy Day is which has been sent out previously. The start of the day remains the same arriving at 8.30 and in form for 8.40 and finishing at 2.50.

Joseph Leckie Academy

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- Please remember that unless otherwise stated in the testing arrangements, once all students return your child will need to come through the correct entrance for their year group: Year 7 Lord Street entrance; Year 8 Lord Street entrance; Year 9 – West Bromwich gates; Year 10 Academy Reception; Year 11 old Car Park entrance; Year 12/13 through the Old Reception.
- Where siblings arrive together, please ensure they have enough time to walk around to the correct gate as they will not be allowed to enter together.
- Students will leave from the nearest exit to their period 5 lesson. Please **check their timetable so that you know which gate they will depart from.**
- You can drop your child off at the designated gate, but will not be able to come onto school site and you should ensure that you maintain social distancing from other parents and students. Please can I remind parents that if you drop your child off you **should not block residents' driveways** and please do not socialise with other adults/students outside the gates.
- Lunchtime arrangements are staggered, as last term, although times have changed. All students are encouraged to eat a healthy breakfast before arriving in school, however there is a breakfast club available from 8am and food will be available to purchase at break time if they wish from their usual zones. **Breakfast club and breaktime snacks will resume on Monday 15th.** A selection of hot and cold lunch items will be available in the canteen at lunchtime for purchase or for free school meals.
- Please remember we operate a **completely cashless system** for all students. It is essential your child has credit on their ParentMail account prior to purchasing food, uniform or equipment. Please top up via Parent Mail.
- **Usual uniform policy** will resume which includes their **Identity Badge**. It is important that they wear this every day and if they have lost this, they will need to replace this on the first day back. This is important for ease of identification to ensure their safety and to keep their year bubbles separate.
- Students will operate in year group bubbles and they will have **designated areas at break and lunchtimes and they MUST NOT MIX with other years in other areas.**
- There is a **one-way system** in operation. Students must follow this.
- **Students must maintain social distancing of 2m from all adults and at least 1m distance from each other.**
- **Students have been wearing masks for some time (unless you have provided a medical letter) now in all communal areas following the government guidance in October and they must continue to do so.** See Protocols.
- **From February, PHE have recommended that all schools strongly encourage students to wear masks in all classrooms to reduce transmission and protect all members of the school community. All schools are expected to implement this** and for other activities (except PE) where social distancing cannot be maintained. This will be reviewed by PHE at Easter. We ask for your support in encouraging this with your child. However, to give them some break from wearing masks all day we will allow students to remove them if they wish at breaktime and lunchtimes, but they should remain socially distanced from their friends to reduce transmission. Please see the revised protocol attached.
- There will be enhanced cleaning throughout the Academy, but all staff and **students must regularly clean their hands**, including when they arrive at school, when they return from breaks, before and after eating using soap and water or hand sanitiser.
- They must ensure good respiratory hygiene, we promote the **'catch it, bin it, kill it'** approach.

- Please ensure that you have read the **student expectations and protocols**. These have been updated and they will be explained clearly to your child on 15th March. Your child must follow these rules in addition to the usual Academy rules in the Positive Behaviour Management Policy for everyone's safety.

Reminder: Health

Please ensure that if anyone in your household has COVID-19 symptoms, your child does NOT attend school. Any child who tests positive or who develops symptoms in the school day will be sent home immediately. You must follow the Government guidance 'stay at home: guidance for households with possible or confirmed coronavirus (COVID-19) infection' If anyone in your household is displaying any symptoms of COVID-19, or has tested positive, you MUST inform school by telephone. See full details in the protocols available on our website. <https://www.josephleckieacademy.co.uk/COVID19>

Attendance

The government has advised that attendance will become mandatory again. This means that the legal duty on you as a parent to send your child to school regularly. We will work with you to try to maintain your child's education throughout the time they are away from lessons within the restrictions of any health issues or due to isolations.

Please be aware that all of our decisions are subject to any imposed localised or wider restrictions or further information from the government.

Please keep an eye on the website for further updates and any necessary changes as these may still change if we get any further guidance from the government and/or Public Health England or if the transmission rates increase again and we enter another Lockdown.

I will send a further letter once testing is complete to give you guidance as to how your child will complete home tests and there will be guidance on the website.

Yours sincerely



Rachel Cook
Acting Principal.

Further Details On Attendance for Individual Year Groups is attached overleaf.

WEEK COMMENCING 8TH MARCH ONLY STUDENTS WHO ARE BEING TESTED ARE IN SCHOOL (except vulnerable / key worker students who have been in school during lockdown*)

PLEASE SEE YOUR CHILDS EMAIL AND ACADEMY WEBSITE FOR TIME SLOTS WHICH ARE DONE BY FORMS FOR THE FIRST THREE DAYS.

Year 11 appointment times from 8.40 on Monday 8th March. Stay in school on Monday. Then return on Thursday 11 th and Friday 12 th March.
Year 12 and 13 start from 11.45 on Monday 8 th March. Stay in school on Monday. Then return on Thursday 11 th March and Friday 12 th March
Year 7 appointment times from 8.40 on Tuesday 9th March stay in school. Then return on Friday 12 th March.
Year 10 appointment times start from 11.45 on Tuesday 9th March stay in school. Then return on Friday 12 th March.
Year 8 appointment times start from 8.40 on Wednesday 10th March stay in school. Then return on Monday 15 th March.
Year 9 appointment times start from 11.45 on Wednesday 10th March stay in school. Then return on Monday 15 th March.
Year 11, 12 and 13 arrive at 8.40 on Thursday 11th March and go to form and will have Test 2 – released from lessons and return. You will be in school as normal on Friday 12 th March.
Year 7 and 10 arrive at 8.40 on Friday 12th March and go to form and will have Test 2 – released from lessons and return to lessons.
*Vulnerable / Key worker students who have been in school during lockdown and have consented and been tested will arrive in forms on Monday 8 th March and will be in lessons all week (tested on the same day as your year group).
*Vulnerable / key worker students who have been in school during lockdown but have NOT consented to testing will be in school (arrive through the old Academy reception) and based in Room 11.