



Avonbourne Boys' & Girls' Academies

The best in everyone™

Part of United Learning

24th February 2021

Dear Parents/Carers,

Covid-19 Update: Return to School on 8th March

As we begin the new half term, I am very pleased to be writing to you following the Prime Minister's announcement that all students will be allowed to return to school on Monday 8th March.

I know that this news will be greatly welcomed by parents, students and staff alike and I would like to thank you for your support since January whilst students have been learning from home. We have all managed very well over the Lockdown with learning progressing across all Year Groups and our Year 11 and Year 13 students are in good shape for whatever is ultimately announced about how qualifications will be awarded.

We should all be reassured and encouraged that the scientific and medical experts have concluded that it is now safe for children to return to school. It is so important to get students back into school before the Easter holidays so that we can continue to build the momentum of the school year and return to some normality after so long away.

Return to School:

Please see the table below for the arrangements for pupils returning:

Date of Return	Year Group	Start Time	End Time	Access to site
Monday 8 th March	13	8.30	15.10	6 th form gate
Monday 8 th March	12	8.30	15.10	6 th form gate
Monday 8 th March	11	8.30	15.35	6 th form gate
Monday 8 th March	10	8.40	15.35	Block B gate
Tuesday 9 th March	9	8.50	15.20	Block B gate
Tuesday 9 th March	8	9.00	15.10	Basketball Courts
Wednesday 10 th March	7	8.40	15.10	Block B gate

Pupils will return in full school uniform from Monday 8th March and should bring PE kit with them on the days they have PE.



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With numbers of infections falling and the vaccination programme making good progress and reaching those most vulnerable to Covid-19, we can be hopeful that this stage of the pandemic is coming to an end. We must, of course, however, remain vigilant and continue to follow the guidelines that have become so routine across the school this academic year. Thus, social distancing will remain in place, face coverings must be worn indoors where social distancing cannot be maintained (including in classrooms) and students will continue to learn in their bubbles and self-isolate should they be in close contact with someone who tests positive for the virus.

It is important, as ever, that we all remain vigilant to the symptoms of Covid-19 even though the risk to young people is very small. There are things we can all do to help reduce the risk of getting ill with Covid-19:

- wash our hands with soap and water often – do this for at least 20 seconds;
- use hand sanitiser gel if soap and water are not available;
- wash our hands as soon as we get home;
- cover our mouth and nose with a tissue or our sleeve (not our hands) when we cough or sneeze;
- put used tissues in the bin immediately and wash our hands afterwards;
- wear face masks (unless exempt) in all communal areas including classrooms.

Rapid Testing:

As you will recall, we now have the additional benefit of being able to test students three times for Covid-19 as they return to school. In doing so, we will be able to identify any students who are positive but asymptomatic and who need to self-isolate. We will be operating this by Year Group in the following order:

- Years 10, 11, 12 and 13 will be tested on Monday 8th March, Thursday 11th March, and Monday 15th March.
- Years 8 and 9 will be tested on Tuesday 9th March, Friday 12th March, and Tuesday 16th March.
- Year 7 will be tested on Wednesday 10th March, Monday 15th March, and Thursday 18th March.

If you consent to your child being tested, please complete the online consent form by Thursday 4th March 2021:

<https://forms.office.com/Pages/ResponsePage.aspx?id=ye8ngOLtu06T9X6BmEOPIUum4xQQsLdGt0LwYeSd3q5UNUMyOU8xUEVPNENCWVUxTik4N084VU5POSQIQCN0PWcu>.

Only students with a completed consent form will be tested. If you do not consent, please do not complete the form. Following the on-site testing, we will be able to offer all students home-test kits and will provide more information about this in due course.

If your child shows any symptoms of Covid-19 (a new, continuous cough and/or a high temperature and/or a loss of, or change in, normal sense of taste and smell) please do not send them to school for their asymptomatic testing but go to the dedicated NHS 111 Covid site, <https://111.nhs.uk/covid-19/>, for details of what you need to do.



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Remote Teaching:

Over the next two weeks, our remote learning programme will continue in full. Each day is vital in your child's education, so it is very important that all students continue to work hard from home and keep up with their lessons and learning.

To prepare for the full re-opening of the school, the following changes to our provision will take place:

Date	Year Groups	Morning Tutor Time	DEAR	Lessons
Friday 5 th March	All	Live on TEAMS – celebration assemblies	Live on TEAMS	Asynchronous
Monday 8 th March	Years 10-13	Face to face	Face to face	Face to face
Monday 8 th March	Years 7-9	Live on TEAMS	Live on TEAMS	Asynchronous
Tuesday 9 th March	Years 8-13	Face to face	Face to face	Face to face
Tuesday 9 th March	Year 7	Live on TEAMS	Live on TEAMS	Asynchronous
Wednesday 10 th March	All	Face to face	Face to face	Face to face

We look forward to welcoming students back to school and thank you again for everything you have been doing to encourage and support their learning from home.

Yours sincerely,

Stuart Ingram
Principal