

# ALEC REED ACADEMY

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21<sup>st</sup> April 2021

Dear Parent/Carer

As we return after the Easter break there is always a feel-good factor that summer is on its way. The longer evenings and the improving weather, plus the additional benefit of a relaxation of the lockdown rules, mean that there is a sense that we are getting back to some form of normality. We do, however, still need to take precautions to ensure we do not have increased Covid-19 cases and further periods of lockdown. Countries across the world continue to have high infection rates and it is quite possible that these different strains of the Coronavirus may get transmitted back to Ealing. Currently the academy is in a positive place and we know of very few confirmed cases within the local community. If we are to maintain this position, then our staff and pupils must continue to test twice weekly and to support this we will be distributing more home testing kits to pupils. We must also, in line with government guidance, continue to wear face coverings in lessons and around the building. There are a small number of pupils that are exempt from this expectation due to underlying health conditions and these pupils have been supplied with an exemption badge that should be worn at all times.

During the winter months we eased our rules slightly regarding the wearing of uniform. Now that we are entering a period of warmer weather and high street shops have reopened, we will once again be expecting full uniform to be worn including blazer, tie, lanyard and black polishable shoes. Coats will also no longer be worn in classrooms or around the building. Please support us by ensuring that your child has all **the correct items of uniform by Monday 26<sup>th</sup> April**. After this date your child's SafeWorker will be contacting you should there still be uniform issues.

We have been approached by the Metropolitan Police to take part in a London wide initiative to keep children safe in schools. They are visiting schools across London with knife wands and a sniffer dog to screen for weapons or drugs. Although this may sound concerning it is part of a wider approach to Safeguarding within schools across the country. Whilst on the topic of safeguarding I remind you that our staff on gate duty have body cameras so that it is possible to record images of any suspicious individuals that may be in the vicinity of the academy. This is once again all part of the safer schools' initiative.

Over the next six weeks we will be stepping up our expectations in relation to classwork and homework as we look to quickly identify and close the gaps in learning that may have developed through lockdown. It is important that you as parent/carers continue to play your part in this process by asking your child about their learning and supporting them with the completion of homework tasks.

For Year 11 and Year 13 pupils this will be a particularly intense period of time as they now only have six weeks of school remaining. The first four weeks will be spent with intensive teaching and then the last two weeks will include assessments to measure progress. Their last formal school day will be Friday 28<sup>th</sup> May after which the academy will be moderating and standardising the Centre Assessed Grades before submitting them to the examination boards. Year 11 will then be offered

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the opportunity to attend bridging courses through June and July to prepare them for their Post 16 study.

Ms Browne (Assistant Principal with responsibility for year 11) and Ms Stokes (Assistant Principal with responsibility for year 13) will be providing more detailed information regarding this process in the next couple of weeks.

I will continue to keep you updated on a weekly basis through our social media channels. In the mean time should you have any questions please do contact your child's year team.

With thanks for your continued support and my best wishes to all, especially to those who are currently observing the holy month of Ramadan.

**Phil Cosby**  
**Acting Principal & CEO**