

# ALEC REED ACADEMY



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Acting Principal and CEO: Phil Cosby

Dear Parent/Carer,

You will be aware from my previous correspondence that secondary pupils will have a staggered return to the academy from Monday 8th March. As part of this return process, all pupils are required to undertake three, self-administered Lateral Flow tests on the school site. Moving forward they will be provided with tests that they or you as parent/carers, can administer at home. The home testing process is simple to use and comes with full instructions. I am pleased that most parents have now given consent for their child to be involved in the testing process. This is important as it will help to keep our community as safe as possible.

On their return pupils will be expected to wear a mask when in internal areas where socially distancing cannot be maintained. The small number of pupils that are exempt from wearing a mask will be provided with a badge, that must be worn on their blazer, to show staff. This will prevent them from being questioned or receiving sanctions for their failure to follow the government guidelines. Any student who arrives without a mask on their first day back will be provided with a disposable mask.

I remind you of the test dates (after which they will return home) and the return to school dates for Year 11:

**Monday 8th March Year 11** arrive at the academy **in full school uniform** to take their Lateral Flow Test, in form groups, at the time identified below.

8.30am – Form Group 11 Alpha

9.00am – Form Group 11 Beta

9.30am – Form Group 11 Gamma

10.00am – Form Group 11 Delta

10.30am – Form Group 11 Epsilon

11.00am – Form Group 11 Zeta

After the test pupils will be allowed to return home, providing the test is negative they will then return to school the following day to start lessons.

**Tuesday 9th March Year 11** will return to school **for an 8.30am start** (unless they have tested positive) and will attend their lessons in the same manner as during the autumn term. I remind you that all staff and pupils are advised to wear face coverings **in all areas, including classrooms, where social distancing cannot be maintained** as a temporary extra measure, initially up to the Easter holidays.

Earlier this week Ms Windsor circulated a questionnaire to parents regarding our return to school. From this we have produced a sheet of Frequently Asked Questions (FAQs) that I thought you may find helpful.

## Will I be safe in school?

The Academy has followed all of the guidance set out by the government for schools. We have used this to write a risk assessment relevant to the needs of our Academy. Our risk assessment can be found at: [ARA Covid-19 Risk Assessment](#)

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**Will our timetable be the same as it was before Christmas?**

Yes, it will be the same. All year groups will arrive and leave at staggered times and have staggered breaks and lunchtimes.

**Will the amount of work in school increase or decrease when we return to the Academy?**

You will follow your normal in-school timetable of lessons when you come back to the Academy. All students will need to catch up, but you will be guided through this process carefully by your teachers.

**Will the clubs, enrichment and after school intervention activities start up again?**

The government has confirmed that clubs, enrichment and after school intervention activities can start again. We will start to promote these activities as soon as it is safe to do so.

**Will there be assessments when I return to school?**

Our main priority when we first return is for our students to settle safely back into Academy life and lessons with teachers. All teachers are currently discussing how we will conduct assessments and testing for all year groups, and we will put these in place when we feel the time is right. With regards to Year 11 and 13 formal exams we are waiting for information from the government. As soon as we have this, we will share the plans with you.

**Will 6<sup>th</sup> Form students be allowed to go home when their lessons for the day are finished and/or in between lessons?**

We are not looking to our policy with regards to 6<sup>th</sup> Form students staying in the Academy during independent study periods. We will let you know if we are going to make any changes.

**Can I keep doing online lessons instead of coming back to the Academy in person?**

The government has made it clear that all students must return to school as directed during the week beginning the 8<sup>th</sup> March. As a result, lessons will no longer be online as our teachers will be teaching classes in the Academy. If you are self-isolating or you have been directed by the NHS to shield, please contact your child's SaFE Worker to discuss this further.

**What should I do if I have problems with other students in my year group?**

You should report the problem to your form tutor, teacher, Head of Year or SaFE Worker.

**Will I get a detention if I am late to the Academy?**

We will not be running late detentions for the first two weeks to allow students time to get back into a good routine. Where you can, we would encourage you to walk to the Academy. If you have to take public transport, in line with the guidance from the Department for Transport, you should expect your journey to take longer than usual and leave more time for this.

**How will my teachers help me to catch up?**

Your teachers have been working hard throughout lockdown to plan ways in which they will help you to catch up. Some children will be able to catch up using in-class strategies and some will require more individualised interventions. When you are back in the Academy we will focus on what each student needs to catch up.

**Are the Covid tests in the Academy compulsory for students? How many times a week do students have to take a test?**

The Lateral Flow Tests are not compulsory but are advisory as they will help with the early identification of asymptomatic cases within the community. We encourage all pupils to participate in the testing process.

**Do we have to wear school uniform on our testing day? Can I go home when I have taken my test?**

You need to come into the Academy in full school uniform. As soon as you have taken your test, you should go straight home. You should return the next day for normal lessons unless you have a positive test.

**Do we actually need to wear our masks everywhere?**

The more frequently you wear your mask the safer everyone will be. It is important that they are worn whenever you cannot maintain a 2 metre distance from others. Pupils that are exempt from wearing a mask will be given a badge to wear so staff and other pupils are aware. If we can bring down the rate of transmission then hopefully we will be in a position to review the wearing of masks at Easter.

Thank you for your continued support and cooperation.

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