



'An Academy to be Proud of'

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1<sup>st</sup> March 2021

Dear Parent / Carer,

### **Wider Opening of Armfield Academy (Secondary Students)**

As Mr Kilmurray stated in his communication to you last week, we are really excited to be able to welcome back all of our students during the week beginning 8<sup>th</sup> March. We understand that many people have found the recent lockdown period very challenging and we are looking forward to being able to bring some normality back into our school community.

As I am sure you can appreciate, we have had a lot of planning to do in order that we can all return safely as per the Government guidance and I would like to apologise for the sheer amount of information that we are having to share with you at this time. Please be assured that all our risk assessments and systems of control are in place. Students will continue to be taught in bubbles with start times, finish times, break-times and lunchtimes all staggered in order to help us reduce any transmission. We have made no changes to these times. We will continue to operate our track and trace system where we identify the close contacts of anyone who tests positive for coronavirus. Following a positive test result, staff and students who are identified as close or proximity contacts will be sent home to isolate in line with government expectations and this will help to keep any wider disruption to learning to a minimum. Students working from home who are well enough to access work can do so through our remote learning platform and this will ensure that students don't fall too far behind.

### **Face Coverings**

All staff and students are now required to wear face coverings at all times whilst inside any school building. Government guidance has been updated to include the wearing of face coverings whilst in the classroom. We will continue to provide face coverings to all students who do not bring their own to school.

### **Asymptomatic Testing**

We are required to offer testing to all students before they return to the classroom next week and **the schedule for this is attached in the testing letter to parents along with the rest of the information that you require.** Testing is voluntary and we strongly recommend that all families consent to their child being tested. As the students who have been attending school throughout the last 7 weeks will testify, the process is straightforward and reassuring and is part of our commitment to helping reduce the transmission of coronavirus. All the information that you need is included in the attached letter including a link to the consent form (<https://forms.gle/y9B63DJ8Bq2t3F676>). Please can you return your consent form as soon as possible so that plans for testing can be finalised.

All our vulnerable and key worker children are still welcome to attend right up until the day that their year group returns to school.

The Government's roadmap has several milestones that determine when they are planning to ease restrictions but we don't yet know how these will impact on schools. As always, we will keep you informed of our plans as we move into the summer term.

If you have any questions regarding this or any other matter then please do not hesitate to contact us at school via the usual means.

Yours sincerely,

D J Hallam  
Deputy Headteacher

