

18th March 2021

Dear Parents and Carers,

I wanted to update you with how school has operated since we returned, thank everyone for their incredible support with uniform and share details of how we will be shortly moving to twice weekly, rapid COVID-19 testing at home. This will follow the students completing their LFD tests in school, under supervision.

Your children have been brilliant on their return to the classroom. There is still a need for the school to manage many routines, but the willingness to wear face coverings, adapt to changing routines and generally support what we do has been exceptional. With 1500 children returning, our attendance has been over 95% and we only have a small handful of children who will need to make emergency adjustments to their hairstyles over the Easter break. Uniform has been great, but we will remind all students that a full school uniform must be worn sensibly when we return after Easter. This will include school shoes and the removal of hooded tops/sweatshirts.

This term has also seen a small number of students who have tried to conceal headphones (airpods etc) during the day. We understand these are part of everyday use for many outside of school, and were essential kit during lockdown, but they are not allowed during school time. Please help us by reinforcing this message with your child.

Red Nose Day – Friday 19th March 2021

I realise this is short notice, but we will be holding a non-uniform day on Friday, in support of the Red Nose Day appeal. We are unable to take cash donations on site, but we have set up a link on Parent Pay for any donations. Again, we always need to remind students that it is a full working day in school, therefore whatever is chosen must be suitable and appropriate for school.

End of Term – Friday 26th March 2021

The school closes for Easter at the end of Friday 26th March 2021. School will reopen to all students on Monday 12th April. We will be returning on a WEEK A, asking all students to be in school promptly for period 1 starting at 8:40am.

Home Testing Kits

According to the government guidance, "up to 1 in 3 people who have COVID-19 have no symptoms and could be spreading it without knowing. Getting into a regular habit of regular testing will help stop the virus spreading, keeping your family and friends safer."

We will be sending home COVID-19 testing kits with your child from week commencing 22nd March. Please make sure your child tests themselves twice a week 3-5 days apart, in the morning before school if possible and, if not, the evening before.

Your child should also continue testing twice a week, at home, throughout the Easter school holidays. We will provide enough tests to see through the Easter Holidays and the first week back.

We will issue testing kits and instructions to all students who have previously consented to the testing procedures in school. If you would prefer for your child to NOT bring home a testing kit, then respond to this email opting out.

Our aim is to distribute the kits to Year 11 during their tutor period on Monday 22nd March. We will then distribute the Year 10 tests via their tutor period on Tuesday 23rd March. All students in Years 7, 8 and 9 will receive theirs after their final LFD test in school (Year 7 on Wednesday, Year 8 on Thursday and Year 9 on Friday).

Whilst the guidance is clear in what we are being asked to do, we would ask parents/carers to plan the tests so that all children are tested at home on the evening of Sunday 11th April or before school on Monday 12th April. This will give further confidence to the return of all students for the start of the summer term.

If your child has not been tested at school yet, then please get in touch with us so that we can arrange a time for them to be tested on site, before beginning home testing. The school has also been asked to maintain a small testing provision on site for those that would prefer their child was tested on site, under supervision. If this is the case, please let us know so that we can plan an appropriate time to test before the school day begins.

This does not replace testing for those with symptoms. If you have symptoms you must self-isolate immediately, book a PCR test and follow national guidelines.

Reporting Results

It is really important that results of test are reported online straight away, even if your child's result is negative or void. It's easy to do at www.gov.uk/report-covid19-result. Results can also be reported via telephone by calling 119 (free from mobiles and landlines). Lines are open every day, 7am to 11pm. It is important to keep a note of your child's results and share any positive cases with the school. You can do this by leaving a message with reception, sending us a message through the MyEd app or by contacting your child's Head of Year.

Testing for parents/carers, households and bubbles twice a week

A reminder that regular rapid testing is now also available for parents/carers, their households and support or childcare bubbles. The government is encouraging all families to participate in twice weekly testing to help stop the spread. Parents and other adults in the household can access tests by:

- Ordering tests online www.gov.uk/order-school-household-tests
- Getting an assisted test at work, if it is available
- Attending a test site to get tested (where you will be able to see how to take the test) or pick up tests to do at home.

To find out more on school household testing visit Households and bubbles of pupils, students and staff of schools and colleges: get rapid lateral flow tests - GOV.UK (www.gov.uk)

Final Words

We say goodbye to a couple of valued teachers who are leaving us this term. Sally Wareing (Science) and Kandis Watson (Business Studies) both leave us at Easter, and we want to thank them for their fantastic input into life at LSA. We wish them both well for the future. Ally Gittens joins us to teach Food Technology, whilst John Sumner is staying on as part of our Site team.



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"A learning community in pursuit of excellence"

I know we keep using words like unprecedented and challenging, but the return to school has been a genuine delight. We all know how lucky we are to be part of LSA with our strong values, but alongside these there have been so many incidents of kindness, compassion, and thoughtfulness. We are all looking forward to a summer term where Year 11 can get the recognition they deserve, Year 10 can start planning for how their GCSEs will work, Year 9 can move up to KS4 whilst Year 7 and 8 can hopefully enjoy a full term at school!

Many thanks again for your help and support over the last 12 months and I hope we are all able to enjoy some of the benefits of our road out of lockdown over the coming Easter break.

Your sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Ray Baker', is written over a light blue horizontal line.

Mr Baker
Headteacher
Lytham St Annes High School
"A learning community in pursuit of excellence"