

16th April 2021

Dear Parent/Carer

We have been delighted to see and welcome students back into the Academy this last term and we are extremely proud of the way they have adjusted to being back in the classroom. As we prepare to return to school on Monday 19th April, I would like to provide you with some important updates and remind you of some key information.

Local Area Covid Rates

You may have seen in the media that Mansfield has recently hit the headlines as a result of having a high level of new infections compared to much of the country. Public Health have been in contact with us and other local schools to express concern as many of the new cases are linked to young people aged under 18, and particularly those aged 12 – 17. This acts as a powerful reminder that Covid-19 is still circulating widely in our community and of the need for everyone to maintain the restrictions which are in place at Step 2 of the [roadmap](#). As the lockdown is eased the commitment and vigilance of everyone in Mansfield is important so that we do not become the focus of a resurgence. We must all remember to:

- Carry out the rapid lateral flow tests at home on Sunday 18th in the evening or on the Monday morning before students return.
- Wash hands regularly – ‘[Hands. Face. Space.](#)’
- Follow the rules for any places we visit.
- Get a free PCR test and isolate immediately if you have [symptoms](#) of Covid-19 and [self-isolate](#) along with the rest of your household.
- [Self-isolate](#) for 10 days if anyone in your household or bubble has tested positive, or you have been identified as a close contact. It is a legal requirement and further information can be found [here](#). Support may be available to you if you are required to self-isolate, further information can be found [here](#).

Please make sure your child is adhering to the guidance in place and that they know to go straight home after school and avoid mixing with other students. All of our efforts will help to reduce the spread of the virus and the number of people needing to self-isolate if positive cases are identified. We must remember that up to one third of people carrying the virus do not have symptoms.

Home Testing

Getting tested is an important way of defending ourselves, our families and community from a resurgence. For those who have consented to their child being issued with home tests, these were provided before the holiday and we asked you to continue with testing at home during the break. You must make sure that test results are registered within 24 hours using the gov.uk [link](#) and to the Academy using the link at the top of our website or [here](#).

It is vital that if your child has tested positive, they **do not** come into school, even if they have no symptoms. You must then book a free PCR test to confirm the result and telephone us as soon as possible to report this. We will then carry out any contact tracing required in school and advise any close contacts to self-isolate.

Regular rapid lateral flow tests to check for coronavirus are now available to everyone in England, you can find more information about this [here](#). We strongly recommended doing this to help keep us all safer as we return to the Academy.

We must stress the importance of everyone abiding by the guidance that is issued and we will continue to work with external agencies where necessary to report any concerns.

Remote Learning

If your child is following public health advice and self-isolating, you will not be penalised for any non-attendance. Students who are unable to attend for these reasons will continue to receive remote education. Please refer to the remote learning section of our website for further information: <https://www.samworthchurchacademy.co.uk/student-information/remote-learning-guide>.

IT Equipment

If your child has been provided with a laptop to help them access remote learning, please make sure they know to return it to us on their first day back, including any chargers and accessories. It is important that all equipment is returned so that essential maintenance can take place and so that we can prepare them for use again. If your child experiences a future period of self-isolation and does not have access to a computer, do not hesitate to contact us and we will try our best to organise some support.

Face Coverings and Protective Measures

Please make sure that your child has a sufficient supply of face coverings and that they have one with them at all times. Face coverings will continue to be worn in classrooms as well as in corridors and other social areas in accordance with our current risk assessment, this will be [reviewed](#) in May. Children who are exempt from wearing a face covering will not be required to wear one, if this applies to your child please let us know if you haven't already done so by contacting health@tscacademy.org.uk.

We want to reassure you that we continue to implement a number of protective measures to keep your child safe. We have updated our risk assessment to reflect any changes in circumstances and will communicate any future changes to you as and when we make them.

Free School Meals

If your child is eligible for free school meals and is required to self-isolate we will continue to provide a food parcel. Please contact our reception to arrange collection.

Uniform

We recently asked for your support in ensuring that all students return to the Academy in full uniform after the holiday. Please check with your child over the weekend that they have everything they need. Students should attend the Academy without piercings and wearing plain black school shoes only. No coloured nails, acrylic nails or false nails are permitted so these must be removed before Monday. Please see pages 10-12 in the [parent handbook](#) for further information.

The School Day

The school day will continue to be staggered depending on which year group each student is in. Below is a reminder of the timings. Don't forget, if you have children in different year groups with different start times, please keep them away from the school site as far as possible until their start time. If any of this causes a problem with your own family arrangements, please do get in touch via enquiries@tscacademy.org.uk and we will direct your enquiry and help if we can.

	Years 7 & 8	Years 9 & 10	Year 11 & Sixth Form
	7.45am Arrival and student briefing	8.45am Arrival and student briefing	9.45am Arrival and student briefing
8am-9am	Lesson 1	Lesson 2	Lesson 3
9am-10am	Lesson 2	Lesson 3	Lesson 4
10am-11am	Lesson 3	Lesson 4	LUNCH
11am-11.30am	LUNCH	LUNCH	Lesson 5
11.30am-12pm	Lesson 4	Lesson 1	Lesson 1
12pm-12.30pm	Lesson 5	Lesson 2	Lesson 2
12.30pm-1.30pm		Lesson 3	
1.30pm-2.30pm		Lesson 4	
2.30pm-3.30pm		Lesson 5	



Lunch time

Lunches will continue to be served and eaten in the same area that each year group meets in the morning and menu choices will be identical in both venues. Students will then be encouraged to go outside to a designated area for the rest of the lunch time session. Please check that your child has their lunch card with them and to top up their account up using our online payment system as we continue to operate a cashless system;

<https://www.wisepay.co.uk/store/generic/template.asp?mID=13111&ACT=nav>

What to bring

Please make sure that your child brings with them only the items they need for that day. We will not be able to admit entry to the Academy to allow parents/carers to drop off any items during the school day, so it is important that your child checks that they have what they need.

Travel to and from school

We remind you that students must avoid car sharing and public transport if possible. Students should ideally walk or cycle to school but may be dropped off by car individually if they live too far away. Unless prior permissions have been granted to drop off/pick up your child, may we remind you not to enter the car park. This is in the best interests of your child for health and safety reasons. Guidance on travel from the government can be found [here](#) and from the local authority [here](#).

We appreciate this is a lot of information to take in and that some students may be worried about returning to school. With this in mind, 'Return from Lockdown Support' has been put together via the following [link](#) which provides extra avenues including podcasts and a variety of things to listen to, to calm nerves and help allay any fears. Please do reassure your child and ask them not to worry as we will continue to remind them of the information they need and explain this clearly each day.

We know there will be a few mistakes as students continue to get used to things. Of course, any deliberate failure to follow the rules will need to be dealt with quickly and strictly. You will find some adaptations to our behaviour policy here <https://www.samworthchurchacademy.co.uk/our-school/policies>. However, we know that our fantastic students can be relied on to cooperate fully and be sensible regarding these rules.

If you would like to look back at any previous information shared, you can access this in the parent/letters sections of our website; <https://www.samworthchurchacademy.co.uk/letters>

If you have any questions about any of this, please email enquiries@tscacademy.org.uk or contact the Academy in the usual way.

I would like to thank you once again for your ongoing support. I hope that everyone has enjoyed the break and we all look forward to seeing students again on Monday.

Yours faithfully

Lisa McVeigh
Principal