

23<sup>rd</sup> July 2021

Dear Parent/Carer

I apologise in advance for the length of this communication but at the end of a very strange year there is new information to share with you along with details of important changes that you need to be aware of in advance of our return in September, along with some helpful reminders.

Firstly, can I thank you once again for your continued engagement in the Covid-19 testing programme. The asymptomatic testing programme is being paused for students in secondary schools over the summer holidays. If you or your child want to continue testing at home, you can continue to do so by ordering LFD test kits from [gov.uk](https://www.gov.uk) or by collecting kits from your local pharmacy.

#### Testing and Return Arrangements

We are unsure about the Covid situation we will face in the autumn, so we want to be prepared for all scenarios. Subject to public health advice, we anticipate that testing will restart on return in the autumn. We are planning to offer your child two tests on-site with a phased return (very similar to the arrangements we made in March) before continuing regular testing at home.

You do not have to allow your child to take part in the tests, but it is strongly recommended by the government and will help to keep us all safer as we return to the Academy. We will use the consent form and information you provided to us during the spring term to test your child on return in September. If you didn't provide consent previously but would now like to, please complete this [form](#) (if you would like to withdraw your consent for on-site testing, please complete this [form](#)). These forms must be completed no later than **10am on Friday 20<sup>th</sup> August** to enable us to collate the information and make plans accordingly.

The phased return will ensure we can test all students before they mix with other students around the Academy. Students who remain at home on Thursday 2<sup>nd</sup> September will be set work on Show My Homework to complete. Once students have received their first negative test result, they will return to face-to-face teaching. The following table explains the arrangements for return. Students who are not taking part in testing will join the rest of their year group on the dates and times provided in the final column:

Year Group	Test One <b>Students to enter through the climbing wall gate entrance</b>	Return date and time for students not participating in on-site testing
<b>Year 7</b>	Testing will be undertaken during the week of our summer school. For children who are not attending summer school you are invited to come in for testing on Monday 23 <sup>rd</sup> August between 9.30 and 11.30am Thursday 26 <sup>th</sup> August between 9.30 and 11.30am If you cannot attend on these dates, test one will be done on Thursday 2 <sup>nd</sup> September and students should arrive at the normal start time of 7.45am.	Thursday 2 <sup>nd</sup> September 7.45am Main Hall
<b>Year 8</b>	Thursday 2 <sup>nd</sup> September 8am with surname A-H 9am with surname I-Z	Thursday 2 <sup>nd</sup> September 9.45am Restaurant
<b>Year 9</b>	Friday 3 <sup>rd</sup> September 8am with surname A-H 9am with surname I-Z	Friday 3 <sup>rd</sup> September 9.45am Restaurant
<b>Year 10</b>	Friday 3 <sup>rd</sup> September 10am with surname A-H 11am with surname I-Z	Friday 3 <sup>rd</sup> September 12pm Restaurant

Year Group	Test One <b>Students to enter through the climbing wall gate entrance</b>	Return date and time for students not participating in on-site testing
Year 11	Thursday 2 <sup>nd</sup> September 10am with surname A-H 11am with surname I-Z	Thursday 2 <sup>nd</sup> September 12pm Main Hall
Sixth Form	Wednesday 1 <sup>st</sup> September <u>Year 13</u> 1.30pm with surname A-H 1.45pm with surname I-Z <u>Year 12</u> 2pm with surname A-H 2.15pm with surname I-Z	Year 12 Wednesday 1 <sup>st</sup> September 2.45pm – 3.45pm for subject meetings Thursday 2 <sup>nd</sup> September 9.45am briefing in Main Hall

The second test will be arranged during the academy day approximately 3 school days after the first test.

The government will continue to review the future need for testing in light of any changes to the public health situation and we will continue to keep you informed of any changes or updates.

#### Academy Day Consultation Outcome

Following recent communication with you on the proposal to retain the staggered day and a period of consultation, I would like to firstly thank you for engaging with us throughout this process and sharing your valued thoughts. We received 324 responses with the majority indicating a preference to retain the current arrangements or no preference either way. We have therefore decided to continue with our staggered day as a permanent arrangement from September. Below is a reminder of the timings:

Activity	Years 7 and 8
Arrive at	07.45
Lesson 1	08.00 - 09.00
Lesson 2	09.00 - 10.00
Movement/Comfort Break	10.00 - 10.05
Lesson 3	10.05 - 11.05
Lesson 4 (to include a staggered lunch break of 30 mins)	11.05 - 12.35
Lesson 5	12.35 - 13.35

Activity	Years 9 and 10
Arrive at	08.45
Lesson 1	09.00 - 10.00
Movement/Comfort Break	10.00 - 10.05
Lesson 2	10.05 - 11.05
Lesson 3 (to include a staggered lunch break of 30 mins)	11.05 - 12.35
Lesson 4	12.35 - 13.35
Lesson 5	13.35 - 14.35

Activity	Year 11 and Sixth Form
Arrive at	09.50
Lesson 1	10.05 - 11.05
Lesson 2 (to include a staggered lunch break of 30 mins)	11.05 - 12.35
Lesson 3	12.35 - 13.35
Lesson 4	13.35 - 14.35
Movement/Comfort Break	14.35 - 14.40
Lesson 5	14.40 - 15.40

As explained in the previous letter, which detailed the proposal and consultation, moving to these arrangements on a permanent basis will offer many advantages. We do acknowledge that it won't suit everyone but hope that by giving sufficient notice this will enable you to put any personal arrangements in place ready for September.

We anticipate being in a position to re-establish our busy after school wider curricular programme which will enable all students to participate in activities after their normal school day. We will write to you to confirm arrangements for this in the autumn term. We will also be offering a supervisory service for those families who need help before and after school where students will be able to complete homework and use the library space. This means that **all students in Years 7 and 8 will be able to stay until at least 2.35pm every day.**

#### Uniform

As we look to end the year and prepare for next year, may we please remind all families to ensure that your child returns to the Academy in full uniform. Trousers should be plain black and tailored. Tight fitting trousers are not acceptable. Shoes should be plain black and polishable. Students should bring a bag to the academy, as this is a good learning habit, and ensures that they always have a pen, pencil, ruler and their learning journal (planner). Please see pages 10-12 in the [parent handbook](#) for further information. The Academy uniform supplier details can be found [here](#).

#### Behaviour

The academy has recently started to use Satchel One (previously Show My Homework), to record and communicate positive and negative student behaviours. Like many other systems, Satchel One requires all parents to download the app and create an account using the unique parent code linked to your child/children. Please ensure that you download the app and check for notifications. We will be using the system to award positive and negative value points, student badges (attendance, good work and reward events), as well as notifying parents of detentions.

#### Attendance

We work hard to support good student attendance. We expect all students to achieve the minimum standard of 95% attendance throughout the year. Talking to your child about school and contacting us with any concerns are simple ways to promote good attendance. If you or your child is anxious or concerned, please get in touch with our attendance team or your child's Learning Manager and we can discuss your worries in more detail and provide any reassurance you need.

#### Covid Measures

We will review our risk assessment as usual in line with any changes to guidance. Ongoing measures that will remain in place will include appropriate cleaning regimes, reminding students to minimise close contact with others as much as possible, continued promotion of good hygiene 'Catch it, Bin it, Kill it' and to wash or sanitise hands regularly. Students will be reminded of all key information during their daily morning briefings. Please refer to the letter shared on Friday which explains what to do moving forward with regard to anyone in your household displaying symptoms or testing positive.

#### Lunch Time

When we return, please make sure that your child brings their lunch card every day and make sure their account is topped up using our online payment system [Wisepay](#).

#### Lessons and Equipment

From September students will return to travelling around the Academy to their lessons. Students will need to continue to avoid sharing equipment so please make sure they bring their own pen, pencil and ruler and any other basic equipment that they might need.

We appreciate this is a lot of information to take in and that some students may be worried about returning to school in September. With this in mind, please remind them there are lots of us here at the Academy to support them and they can access some wellbeing resources [here](#).

If you have any questions about any of this, please email [enquiries@tscacademy.org.uk](mailto:enquiries@tscacademy.org.uk) or contact the Academy in the usual way. The Academy will be open over the summer break with staff able to help with all enquiries despite the school holiday.

Finally, can I thank you all for your positivity and support during such an unusual year. Our students have shown such resilience and been a credit to us all. This was demonstrated yesterday with their enthusiasm and participation at the fundraising event which you can read about [here](#) and if you haven't yet made a donation and would like to, you can do this through the [JustGiving](#) page.

After a well-deserved break for the whole Academy community, we can't wait to welcome our wonderful students back in the Autumn term!

Yours faithfully

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Lisa McVeigh', with a stylized flourish at the end.

Lisa McVeigh  
Principal