



St. George's School

A Church of England Academy

'Our vision is to be outstanding through the provision of consistent academic excellence within a caring, Christian community'
Headteacher: Mr G Warnock

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Thursday 4th March 2021

Dear Parents, Carers and Pupils,

We are very much looking forward to welcoming our pupils back to school during the week of the 8th March 2021.

Return to the Academy

As you will be aware we have commenced our lateral flow testing as directed by the Government. We have previously communicated the plan. These tests are designed to identify those people who may not be experiencing any symptoms but are, in fact, infectious. Along with the other protective measures we are taking, these tests will help to stop the virus spreading and keep our academy open.

	Monday 8 th March	Tuesday 9 th March	Wednesday 10 th March	Thursday 11 th March	Friday 12 th March	Monday 15 th March
Lateral flow test	Year 10	Year 7	Year 8	Year 9	Year 11	
Return full time		Year 10	Year 7	Year 8	Year 9	Year 11

Be safe in the Academy

As we return to the academy we will continue to maintain the systems we have had in place since September. Compared to many other schools, we had a very low infection rate amongst the academy community throughout that term. The Government has added to those measures by strongly recommending that pupils wear face masks in the classroom as well as other indoor spaces. It is important that all pupils, with the exception of those that are exempt, come to the academy equipped with a face mask and a small plastic bag to store it safely. Face masks are now part of our equipment policy and we expect pupils to have these with them. The Government is reviewing the wearing of face masks in the classroom at Easter so it may only be for a very short period of time.

Uniform

As ever we expect the highest standards in uniform and presentation in the academy. We also want a smooth return to the academy next week. Please can we ask you to familiarise yourself with our standards via the policies on the website. If any family is struggling with correct uniform or presentation issues then please email us on pastoralteam@cidari.co.uk in advance and we will assist you if possible.

Remote Learning

From Monday 8th March all staff will be on site preparing for our pupils return that week and then teaching face to face. In order to enable sufficient planning and teaching of lessons teachers may not be online during the day as they may be teaching a group in the academy. However, there will still be the provision of quality learning set and checked by the teachers. We are currently developing our online teaching further in the event of bubbles having to isolate and will communicate this shortly.

Academy Day

Our pupils have engaged brilliantly with online learning and want to give our pupils the best chances to catch up on any missed learning. Until Easter all pupils will finish lessons at 3.05pm to allow them time to become used to the structure, routine and intensity of the day. After Easter we are lengthening the school day for year 9, 10 and 11 until 4.00pm, this will enable us to introduce an afternoon master class and an extra lesson. This will give these year groups additional face to face teaching. Year 7 and 8 will have an afternoon meeting every day, after lunch, which will allow us to identify and close any gaps in English, Maths, Science and Ebacc subjects. They will continue to finish at 3.05pm.

Mental Well-being

We are proud of the extensive offer we currently provide to our pupils to help support their mental health and wellbeing. In order to evolve this further we have appointed an additional member of staff to our pastoral team, we now have three experienced mental health practitioners. Mrs Preston is a qualified psychotherapist, and has joined us as Senior Mental Health lead. If pupils are feeling anxious about their return to school they will be able to speak to one of the team. Please let us know let us know in advance on the pastoral email so we can make arrangements for your child.

Sports and after school clubs are very important for our pupils and we will share our plans for after Easter once these are finalised.

Break time provision

We need to continue to keep the year group bubbles separate, whilst ensuring this has minimum disruption on learning. To do this we will be using a number of the larger spaces in the academy at break time for different year groups; such as the sports hall and main assembly hall. To support this transition stage until Easter we ask that pupils in year 7 to year 9 bring a snack and drink for break time as they will not be in the refectory. We are currently working with our caterers to be able to offer a break service in these areas, for these year groups, after Easter.

Year 11

We understand that our year 11 parents and pupils will be very concerned regarding the process of assessment during their final few months in the academy. Ofqual have now issued guidance for how grades are to be awarded this summer. As anticipated, grades will be awarded by teacher assessments, with schools expected to ensure that there is a reliable evidence base supporting the award of grades. We will communicate our plans to Year 11 parents in more detail. We will be organising ongoing substantial assessments in the academy for most subjects. We will use these assessments, attitudes to learning, quality of school work, quality of home learning and previous assessments to come to the final grade. This demonstrates the importance to year 11 of working hard on their return.

Finally

We are confident that we can return to the academy safely, however, infection rates remain high when compared with other occasions over the last year when pupils have returned to the academy. We will therefore remain vigilant and adhere to the Government's guidance on social distancing, hygiene and protective measures such as masks.

I look forward to seeing everyone next week.

Take care

G Warnock

Mr G Warnock