



Tollbar Academy



Ref: CLY/AKW

26 February 2021

Dear Parents/Carers

Thank you once again for your continued and valued support. I am delighted to inform you that we are able to welcome our students back to the Academy from Monday 8 March 2021. Tollbar Academy has certainly been a very quiet place and my staff and I are looking forward to resuming face-to-face teaching, hearing the children in the corridors and seeing them socialise with their friends once more. It has been a very challenging time for everyone and we would like to thank you for your support with the online learning provision that has been put in place throughout this lockdown.

As I am sure you are aware, following government guidance, we are required to offer all the children three initial Lateral Flow Tests (LFT) to detect asymptomatic Covid-19 cases when they return to the Academy; the tests will need to be carried out 3 to 5 days apart. The children will then be issued with home testing kits to carry out self-testing independently. We will, of course, let you know about the distribution of the home testing kits when we have this information shared with us. Our intention is to use the three tests carried out in the Academy as a way of training the children in how to complete their own tests confidently and accurately at home; however, we will continue to offer support on testing to parents, and the children themselves, if this is required.

We do appreciate that testing is not compulsory and we will respect the wishes of any parent/carer who does not wish their child to take this test. If you do wish your child to have the LFT test onsite, and you have not already submitted the online consent form found on our website, please follow this link: <https://www.tollbaracademy.co.uk/covidtestconsentform>.

The onsite testing is for individuals who are asymptomatic. If a student or family member has symptoms of Covid-19, then please follow government guidance, self-isolate and book a Covid-19 test: <https://www.nhs.uk/conditions/coronavirus-covid-19/symptoms/>.

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Principal: Caroline Yates

Phased Return of Students:

Due to the requirement to test students on their first day back in to the Academy and the large cohort in each year group bubble, we will be operating a phased return. We would like to make the return as quick and safe as possible so that students can resume their education and socialise with each other.

Please note: The Key Worker and Vulnerable student provision will remain in place each day until the child's year group return.

Phased Return Days will be as below:

<u>Day/Date of Return:</u>	<u>Year Groups to Attend:</u>
Monday 8 March 2021	Year 13 and Year 11 students
Tuesday 9 March 2021	Year 13, Year 12, Year 11 and Year 10 students
Wednesday 10 March 2021	Year 13, Year 12, Year 11, Year 10 and Year 9 students
Thursday 11 March 2021	Year 13, Year 12, Year 11, Year 10, Year 9 and Year 8 students
Friday 12 March 2021	All students to attend

Teaching Remote Lessons:

For the week commencing 8 March 2021, all live lessons will cease. Teachers will set assignments on Microsoft Teams for the students to complete on the days they will not be attending the Academy. This is to enable staff to return to face-to-face teaching, as well as support the Academy's Testing facility – enabling us to test over 700 students a day.

Arrangements on Site:

When students return to the Academy, they will continue to be taught in their 'bubbles' and remain in their Year Group Zones for break and lunchtime. All systems of control that were put in place for the September 2020 return will continue to operate. Students will need to wear full uniform and our usual behaviour policy will apply upon the return to the Academy to ensure the safety and well-being of all our students. As previously, students will follow their full timetable. Please ask your child to check their Teams account to find out when they will require their PE kit. In addition, Homework Club and Extra-Curricular Clubs will resume operation. The use of Microsoft Teams and Office 365 has been very successful and we envisage that teachers will continue to use this software for homework and tasks in the future.

The only addition is that, in line with the updated government guidance, students who are eligible will be expected to wear a face mask in the classroom, corridors and communal areas where social distancing cannot easily be maintained. Face coverings do not need to be worn by students when outdoors on the premises. Students who are exempt from wearing face masks will be issued with passes. If your child is exempt, then please email enquires so we can produce a pass for them at: Enquiries@TollbarAcademy.co.uk.

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Free School Meals:

Aspens will provide food parcels for students whilst they are awaiting their return date. If you would like to take advantage of this provision please email Enquiries@TollbarAcademy.co.uk by 4:00pm on Monday 1 March 2021. Food parcels will need to be collected from the Avro Hall accessed via the main Academy entrance, between 9:30am to 10:30am on Monday 8 March 2021.

Parent Pay:

Please can I take this opportunity to remind all parents/carers to ensure your child's account is adequately funded ready for their return to minimise the use of the revaluation machine onsite.

Attendance:

As detailed in the updated February 2021 guidance, Academy attendance is mandatory for all students from 8 March 2021 in line with their phased return date detailed above. If your child has a Clinically Extremely Vulnerable letter, then please contact the Academy to discuss the provision available at: enquiries@TollbarAcademy.co.uk

The usual rules on attendance at the Academy apply, including:

- Parents/Carers' duty to secure their child's regular attendance at school (where the child is a registered student at a school and they are of compulsory school age);
- The ability to issue sanctions, including fixed penalty notices, in line with local authorities' codes of conduct.

The full updated guidance issued from the Department for Education can be found on this link: https://assets.publishing.service.gov.uk/government/uploads/system/uploads/attachment_data/file/964351/Schools_coronavirus_operational_guidance.pdf

I would like to thank you for completing the online parents'/carers' survey prior to February half-term; your feedback and comments are very useful and informative for our Academy's future planning. The many positive messages received have been forwarded to my staff – thank you for the kind words, emails and messages sent in by so many of you.

Thank you once again for your support during this incredibly demanding time. My staff and I are looking forward to welcoming the children back to the Academy and supporting them as much as we can – both pastorally and in their learning.

Yours faithfully



Mrs C L Yates
Principal

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