

12<sup>th</sup> March 2021

Dear Parents and Carers,

We hope this email finds you well and you are all looking forward to some form of normality resuming on Monday 15<sup>th</sup> March.

As per the Frequently Asked Questions document, the procedures that were previously in place in respect to safeguarding students and staff from Covid 19 will continue when we return to school next week. As you will be aware from the communication shared on March 1<sup>st</sup>, in line with Government guidance, we are now asking students to wear face masks in classrooms as well as in corridors and indoor communal areas. The wearing of masks also remains mandatory on both the school bus and public transport.

We will retain the zones for year group bubbles, therefore students will operate exactly as they were before Christmas, with entrances, exits, classroom allocation and social time arrangements remaining as per the arrangements that were in place from September 2020. It remains absolutely essential that students adhere to the allocated zones and that social distancing remains in place.

At the point of return to the Academy, the vast majority of students will have undertaken 3 lateral flow tests and we would like to thank you not only for your support in providing consent, but also for making necessary arrangements to ensure students arrived at their allocated appointment in a timely manner. The conduct of students during the testing has been exemplary and we would like to thank all students for the mature manner in which they have approached the testing.

From March 15<sup>th</sup>, students will begin to be provided with home testing kits that should be undertaken twice per week, **once on a Sunday evening and once on a Wednesday evening**. We will ensure that all students in all year groups have received their two boxes of home testing kits by Wednesday 17<sup>th</sup> March, and they will receive further kits prior to finishing for the Easter break. Please note that testing kits will be distributed in year group bubbles, and students will be asked to sign for receipt of their tests.

Results of all tests (positive, negative and void) need to be reported to the Academy as soon as possible. We will be asking for results to be shared with us via an online Microsoft Form, please follow the link below to access this form:

<https://forms.office.com/Pages/ResponsePage.aspx?id=jem3QMUMZmEyGRuANLqs3VzVlaCQqG2IDn6hf7g79HSZUQjFJTDhQQzFJQ09CUDZWSIM3N0JCRDhOUy4u>

Unfortunately, it will be necessary for you to complete a separate form for each child you have at the school, but we are hopeful that this will not be a time-consuming task.

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STBA is proud to be part of the



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Prior to taking the test, we advise that students watch the instructional video that is provided on YouTube, the link for which can be found below:

[Step by step guide to COVID-19 self-testing - YouTube](#)

We would like to remind you that anyone aged 11 must ensure the test is administered by an adult, and anyone aged 12-17 should be supervised by an adult but can swab themselves.

Please note that where a student receives a positive test result, parents / carers should notify us the following morning (in addition to completing the Microsoft Form) by emailing [office@stb.academy](mailto:office@stb.academy) or calling reception directly and the student will need to self-isolate. The student will also then need to take a further PCR Covid 19 test to validate the lateral flow test result.

If it is that you encounter ongoing test-related problems, please do get in touch with us (via [t.robbs@stb.academy](mailto:t.robbs@stb.academy) or [office@stb.academy](mailto:office@stb.academy)) so that we can check if this is a wider issue across other users.

School uniform remains compulsory, but due to logistical issues involved in the use of changing rooms, we are continuing to ask that on days when students have PE, they arrive to school in their PE kit and continue to wear it following the lesson. With regards to clothing, we also ask that your son / daughter wears a coat to school because they will be required to go outside to their allocated area at break and lunch times. It may also be sensible for them to have a small umbrella.

Please also note that we would like the school to remain completely cashless. We kindly ask that, where possible, money is loaded onto the account on the previous evening.

We would like to thank you for your continuing patience. Please rest assured that we are absolutely committed to ensuring our site is as safe as possible and, as such, have taken the Government's Guidance for Secondary School Provision extremely seriously.

We really are looking forward to opening our doors to all students again, but we are aware that many may experience apprehension and uncertainty. Please rest assured that we will do everything possible to support our school community during a period of transition to full time face-to-face schooling and, with this in mind, we would encourage you to get in touch (if you haven't already done so) regarding any possible barriers we may encounter, and we can then work together to put support in place. Additionally, we will undertake work with all students to ensure that they feel safe and comfortable, which will sit alongside work to check student progress.

If you do have any questions about site safety, or any of the points raised in this letter, please don't hesitate to get in touch via the usual channels of communication.

Thank you for your on-going support throughout the period of school closure. Our incredible community spirit has shone through more than ever during this difficult time.

Take care and please stay safe.

Yours faithfully,



Mr J Henshaw - Executive Principal



Mrs J Hingley - Associate Principal