

01 March 2021

Dear Parent/Carer,

Firstly I would like to extend my thanks to you for your support over the last half-term; committing so admirably to your role in supporting home teaching and learning. We have been very impressed by student engagement in their Google classrooms. However, this past year has highlighted the importance of schools for young people, they are the best places to support their mental wellbeing, social development and academic progress.

From Monday 8th March 2021 we will start to return to face to face teaching in the academy and we are currently working through the government guidance to ensure everyone can return safely. In recent weeks we have implemented an Asymptomatic Test Centre at the academy with colleagues trained and accredited to support students in administering tests. This is an important development in being able to quickly identify potential cases and reducing the risk of transmission.

The government has advised that all students should complete a lateral flow test before commencing face to face learning followed by two further tests 3-5 days apart. After this, students will be issued with weekly tests which can be administered at home. It is important that we have parent/carer consent for your child to participate in testing and I would like to thank those parents who have already completed the consent form. If you haven't already you can complete the form to either give or deny consent here: <https://forms.gle/tBbW8EXGURrnGfIj8>

To minimise potential transmission of the virus and any further impact on learning it is important that testing can take place at the earliest opportunity. Therefore we will implement a staggered year group approach to the return, with some students testing prior to March 8th. Whilst our priority is getting students back into the academy as soon as possible it is important that we do all that we can to limit transmission of the virus within our community and I urge that students arrive for testing at the time booked.

Year	Initial Test Date	Arrive at	Book Test Here	Face-to-face lessons start:
7	Fri 5 th March	Student reception	www.parents-booking.co.uk/outwoodcity	Mon 8 th March
8	Mon 8 th March	Student reception	www.parents-booking.co.uk/outwoodcity	Tues 9 th March
9	Wed 10 th March	Student reception	www.parents-booking.co.uk/outwoodcity	Thurs 11 th March
10	Mon 8 th March	Student reception	www.parents-booking.co.uk/outwoodcity	Tues 9 th March
11	Fri 5 th March	Student reception	www.parents-booking.co.uk/outwoodcity	Mon 8 th March

We will continue online remote learning for year groups up until their return date so that learning can continue. Students that are attending our vulnerable and children of critical worker provision will continue to attend until their return date. On Friday 5th March, teachers will be providing independent learning tasks for students in their Google-classrooms whilst we prepare the academy for students returning.

On return to face-to-face students the academy will continue to implement the procedures in place prior to Christmas to minimise student movement and the risk of transmission and as we move into this next phase all students are expected to attend (with the exception of those instructed to shield). As an update the government has advised students to wear face coverings in all areas where social distancing may be difficult, including classrooms (unless medically exempt). It is parental responsibility to ensure that children have an appropriate face covering in school and when using public transport.

We appreciate that whilst the majority of children are excited to return to the academy and resume the social interaction with friends which they have missed, some may be anxious after a period of time away. We will be providing a wellbeing curriculum as students return and we will provide more bespoke support for those who need it most. Please do share any concerns with us so that we can put appropriate support measures in place.

The pandemic has had an impact on us all, but with a positive route out of lockdown and a return to school we can come back stronger, raise standards and transform lives. If you have any questions, please contact us via the 'Contact Us' button on the website.

Yours faithfully,

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

Andrew Downing
Principal