



Buckler's Mead
ACADEMY

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Educating with care to succeed

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Dear Parents/Guardians

Following the Prime Minister's announcement on Monday regarding the reopening of schools, I thought it important to write to you to reassure you of our priorities over the coming days to ensure that we reopen Buckler's Mead Academy safely to all students.

The government has stated that from 8 March students will be returning to onsite education. It will be our intention to bring students back in to the academy as quickly as it is safe to do so. However it is important to note that we will need time in the week beginning 8 March to expand our Covid-19 testing in order to meet the government's expectations for the testing of students in school. We will publish a timetable and full arrangements for the week beginning 8 March as soon as we are able to do so.

Lateral Flow Testing

The government guidance states that all students should be offered three tests, 3-5 days apart. Over the coming days we will be seeking your consent for your child(ren) to be tested. More information will follow, but it is important to remember that students will be administering the test themselves with support from our experienced team, who have already been testing the staff and students we currently have on site. Our testing facility has been checked by external agencies and has been praised for the processes and systems in place. Students will be able to return to education after their first negative test. This will form part of the timetable and arrangements for the week beginning 8 March.

Face Masks

Students will be expected to wear face masks inside buildings, including in classrooms at least until Easter, unless they have an exemption. Therefore please ensure your child has at least two face masks, which they are ready to use from 8 March when in the academy; this should be part of their normal school equipment.

Remote Learning and Onsite Provision

We are continuing our onsite provision for students who are currently attending the academy until 8 March. Students who are learning remotely are expected to continue their studies online until 8 March.

Uniform and Equipment

Students will be expected to wear full school uniform and bring the appropriate equipment (2 pens, 2 pencils, a rubber, ruler and calculator) upon their return to the academy. Please ensure that your child has these items ready. If you require any further support regarding these, please contact your child's tutor or Year Coordinator to facilitate this.

Children of all ages up and down the country and across the world have been affected in many different ways because of the Covid-19 pandemic. We will look to ensure the support is there for all students on their return to Buckler's Mead Academy. In the autumn term, we were hugely successful in keeping staff and students safe when on the academy site. We will be rewriting our risk assessment and putting together a plan for reopening that will ensure we are able to teach the full curriculum, maximise learning and support students who may feel anxious about the return to school.

Please look out for further updates, which we will aim to get to you as soon as we can. We are expecting more announcements this week, including more detail on Thursday regarding the national plan for Year 11 and GCSEs. Thank you for your continued support.

Yours sincerely

Mr M Lawrence
Acting Headteacher



Acting Headteacher: Mr M Lawrence BSc Hons.

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