



Buckler's Mead
ACADEMY

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Educating with care to succeed

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Dear Parents and Guardians

As you will be aware from the media and previous correspondence, we are now in a position to advise when we are able to bring students back on to the academy site for face-to-face lessons, beginning from Monday 8 March 2021. We are absolutely delighted that this is the case and cannot wait to see the students back in the academy and accessing learning in classrooms again.

Over the next few days, we will be issuing detailed guidance about how this will work and what the plans will be. We will also request for your consent for Lateral Flow Testing.

The purpose of this letter is to give you an idea of how and when we will test students and when students will be returning to the academy site.

Student Lateral Flow Testing Programme:

We will begin our testing programme on Friday 5 March 2021 with Year 11 students. We will then stagger the return of year groups over the next few days, meaning that all students are back to face-to-face lessons by Thursday 11 March 2021.

We have attached to this letter a calendar detailing when each year group will access the three lateral flow tests, but have briefly summarised the information below:

Please expect to receive a year group specific letter that details the time of your child's first lateral flow test and the consent form that must be completed.

Friday 5th March

- Year 11 students to attend school for their lateral flow test then return home.
- All students to continue their remote learning provision.
- Key worker school will operate as normal for all year groups.

Monday 8th March

- Year 11 students to attend school for their first full day of face-to-face learning.
- Key worker school for years 7-10 will operate as normal.
- Year 7 and 10 students to attend school for their lateral flow test then return home.
- Students in years 7-10 to continue to access their remote learning provision.

Tuesday 9th March

- Year 7, 10 and 11 students to attend school for face-to-face learning.
- Key worker school for year 8 and 9 students to continue as normal.
- Year 8 students to attend school for their lateral flow test then return home.
- Students in years 8 and 9 to continue to access their remote learning provision.



Acting Headteacher: Mr M Lawrence BSc Hons.

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Wednesday 10th March

- Year 7, 8, 10, 11 students to attend school for face to face learning.
- Key worker school for Year 9 continues.
- Year 9 students attend school for their lateral flow test, then return home, and to continue to access their remote learning provision.

Thursday 11th March

- All students to attend school for face-to-face learning.

Following each first test, students should return home to complete online learning and return to face-to-face teaching at the academy the following day. We will only contact parents regarding a test result if it is shown to be inconclusive or positive. These arrangements will take place as follows:

Year Group	First Test Day	Return to the Academy Day
Year 7	Monday 8 th March	Tuesday 9 th March
Year 8	Tuesday 9 th March	Wednesday 10 th March
Year 9	Wednesday 10 th March	Thursday 11 th March
Year 10	Monday 8 th March	Tuesday 9 th March
Year 11	Friday 5 th March	Monday 8 th March

Following the successful completion of three lateral flow tests, students will be provided with home testing kits. We will write to you again explaining how these will be organised, distributed and recorded.

On-Site COVID Measures:

When students return to site for face to face learning, we will continue to operate the same “bubble” system we successfully had in place in the Autumn term. Students are used to this system and I am keen not to bring in too many changes that might cause further worries for students on their return.

We will make minor adjustments based on our experience during the Autumn term, but please be reassured these will not be significant changes to process or procedure. We are committed to ensuring students are able to have full access to the academy site as soon as possible and that staff can return to teach from their specialist rooms.

We are confident the return to the academy site will be a positive experience and we hope that the prevalence of COVID in the community remains low, allowing us to return to specialist teaching rooms after the Easter break. We will make this decision closer to the Easter break, using government advice and local data to inform our decision.

We thank you again for your ongoing support and patience, and we will write shortly with more detailed, year group specific plans.

Yours faithfully



Mr Mark Lawrence
Acting Headteacher