

26 February 2021

Dear Parent/Carer,

Assalaam-alaikum (Peace be with you). I hope you are all well insha'Allah.

As you will be aware, schools are to re-open on the 8<sup>th</sup> March for all pupils, and we are all very much looking forward to welcoming them back. I would like to take this opportunity to thank you again for all your support during this current lockdown which has allowed your daughter to continue with her learning remotely.

### **Covid Testing in School**

As part of the re-opening process the Government has asked schools to provide Covid testing for secondary school pupils on their return to school. To enable us to do so, the return to school will be phased. **In order for schools to carry out the test, you will be sent a consent form electronically to complete and return to school before 8<sup>th</sup> March. A letter outlining the testing will also be sent with the consent form.** I would ask that you read through the letter carefully and give consent for your daughter to be tested to help us keep our school and wider community as safe as we possibly can.

To allow us to carry out the testing we are asking pupils to return over a period of 4 days. By Thursday, all Year groups will be in school. Please see the timeline below for your daughter's first day back at school. Once your daughter has returned to school, she is expected to attend every day. School buses will be running from 8 March 2021 as normal.

Monday 8 <sup>th</sup> March 2021	Year 11 and Year 13 to return
Tuesday 9 <sup>th</sup> March 2021	Year 10 and Year 8 to return
Wednesday 10 <sup>th</sup> March 2021	Year 9 and Year 12 to return
Thursday 11 <sup>th</sup> March 2021	Year 7 to return

If you have given consent for your daughter to be tested in school, 3 tests will be carried out over the course of the first two weeks back in school. We have a team of staff who have undergone the necessary training who will oversee the tests. The actual swabbing of the throat and/or nose will be done by the pupil, whilst the staff will process the test and results. Results take approximately 30 minutes to process, and parents and pupils will be informed of any positive results.

If the test result is positive, pupils must not attend school for at least 10 days as per the Government guidance. Pupils who are in close contact with someone who has tested positive will also need to self-isolate. Testing of pupils is an additional measure, on top of all the ones already in place, to try and minimise the risk of infection spreading. I would therefore encourage you to give your consent for your daughter take part in the testing process.

Once pupils have had the 3 tests, the school will provide home testing kits for pupils to use at home. Once these have arrived in school we will share further information with you.

### **Travel and Arrival at School**

In line with Government guidance, pupils will need to wear a face covering/mask when on public transport. Years 7, 12 and 13 should use the bottom gate near the car park exit (nearest the gym) whereas the other year groups should use the top gate (nearest the car park entrance). Parents should not come onto the school site unless they have arranged to do so via an appointment. If travelling to school on the school bus service students must remain seated and wait to leave the bus as directed by a member of school staff. There will be a temperature check on arrival at school, and students will be instructed to remain in allocated zones when in the school building.

### **Being Prepared for the First Day Back in the Academy**

Pupils should return in full uniform. It is important that your daughter arrives back on her allocated day. Once at the entrance to the building, pupils will be asked to follow social distancing and hygiene routines as per current guidance.

Pupils will need to have the following items to be prepared for the day:

- A filled water bottle.
- A packed lunch, if they do not wish to purchase food at the Academy (food must not be swapped or shared between pupils). Please ensure that your daughter's ParentPay account has enough funds to allow for the purchase of food.
- Bus pass (as required).
- Pupil planner (once issued on the first day).
- A face covering/mask. The Government has now recommended the use of face masks in classrooms as well as communal areas.

### **Exams Update for Year 11 and 13**

Yesterday the Government confirmed that GCSE and A Level grades would be awarded to pupils based on assessments carried out by teachers. We are still awaiting further details before we can share with you how this will happen. I will update you soon as we have this information.

I look forward to welcoming your daughter back into school as per the timetable above.

Regards,



S Muner.

Principal