



26th February 2021

Iceni Academy
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Principal: Mrs Lesley Hogg



Dear Parent/Carer

I hope you and your family are well. Thank you for your continued support and understanding as we collectively handle the challenges posed by Covid-19.

You will no doubt have seen the Prime Minister's announcement that schools will re-open fully, for all students, from Monday 8th March, with testing in place for all students. The Government has given secondary schools discretion as to how phase the return to school over that week, in order to accommodate our arrangements for testing. I am writing to you now to clarify our arrangements.

We are looking forward very much to having all students back in our school, and want to assure you that – as has been the case throughout the coronavirus crisis – we will ensure the school is as safe as it possibly can be. Your child's health, and the health of all our students, staff and wider community, is the most important factor always for us.

Arrangements for our phased return

We will offer three tests to all students as they return over the period of the first two weeks. Testing is not compulsory but is strongly encouraged.

Please find attached a further letter outlining the arrangements for the testing and for you and/or your child to give consent to taking part in the testing scheme. Please read this and return the relevant consent to us as described ahead of 8th March.

We will be inviting students to return year group by year group as follows:

- Year 11s will start back on Monday, with Year 10s starting on Tuesday. From then, Year 7s will be coming back on the Wednesday, Year 8 on the Thursday, and Year 9 on the Friday.
- Students should arrive at the academy as normal on the day they have been invited back.
- Students who have consented to be tested will be shown to the Testing site, where they will maintain social distancing until testing is complete and results received. Students who have not consented to be tested will go straight to lessons.
- As soon as the student has received a negative result (this takes 30 mins), they will join their classmates. If the test comes back as inconclusive, they will be asked to repeat the test. If the test should come back as positive, the student will be isolated and contact home will be made to collect the student, and begin 10 days isolation.
- We will test students a total of three times at the academy in the first two weeks back. The students will be collected from class for the second and third test, and will be allowed to re-join the class immediately following the test.

After the initial period of on-site testing, we will be issuing home testing kits for you to use with your children twice a week at home.

Public health guidance remains that if your child either develops symptoms of Covid-19 or tests positive, they must self-isolate and you should ensure that we are aware in order that we can assist with contact tracing.

Please note that from the first day of attendance indicated above, attendance will now be compulsory as it was prior to the pandemic for all students, apart from those who are able to demonstrate that they have been advised to shield on medical grounds.

We will continue to provide a remote education offer to students prior to their return.

Keeping our academy safe

We will of course be following the government's public health guidance very closely, ensuring social distancing and 'bubbling' wherever possible and encouraging excellent personal hygiene.

We will also, of course, be arranging for additional deep cleaning of our site on a regular basis and doing everything we can to maintain a safe environment for everyone following their return.

One particular change is that the government is now requiring staff and students to wear face coverings in all parts of the academy wherever social distancing is not possible. Please ensure therefore that your child is aware of this new expectation and we appreciate your support in doing everything you can to help us enforce it.

From the 8th March, after-school clubs can re-open. This includes sports and activity clubs. Please watch out for further updates on these, as we are keen to get all students back to enjoying the full range of activities on offer.

Mr Carmichael sent guidance earlier this week on expectations around uniform, as well as advice on preparing your child to return to the routine of school. There was also a link to safety surveys that I would urge you and your child to complete so that we are fully aware of your views.

The Government's announcement indicates we are tentatively returning to normal. However, I wanted to reiterate how alert we are to the continued risk of Covid-19. We will continue to adhere to stringent health and safety measures now, and when fully open. Your support in helping us be as safe as possible is much appreciated and will help ensure we stay open to all students, and keep your child, our staff, and you, safe.

I hope this letter is helpful, and reassuring, but please do contact us at helpme@iceni.attrust.org.uk if you have any questions.

Yours sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'L. Hogg'.

Lesley Hogg
Principal