

1 April 2021

Dear Parents and Carers,

I am sure that you will share my view that the return to full time education for all students has been a real success. We have been delighted with the enthusiastic way that our students have returned to the academy and can not thank you or them enough for the positive attitude towards learning we have experienced. The asymptomatic testing of staff and students on their return followed by twice weekly testing at home has provided us all with the reassurances needed to begin our return to normality. The instances of positive tests have been extremely rare and when they have happened we have been able to significantly reduce the impact on other members of the academy community. Again, thank you for your support in ensuring that this happens.

Our students deserve the opportunity to rest during the Easter holiday and, as restrictions are loosened slightly, to spend more time outside with a friend or family members. I know that my children are excited to return to their Saturday football teams and I am now braced for a few weeks of continuous training and matches. Please encourage your children to get back into their outdoor activities as soon as possible, we have seen the desire from our students to join in with their PE lessons and we have had record numbers attending after-school sports enrichments. The benefits to both their physical and mental wellbeing are huge and we should not underestimate the pleasure that children get from these activities.

If your child develops COVID during the holiday period then you should contact the academy up to and including Wednesday 7th April. Please use the enquiries email address for this contact. After Wednesday 7th April the responsibility for contact tracing is passed to Public Health England and you should contact PHE East Midlands on 0344 225 4524. Students are expected to continue their twice weekly testing at home during the Easter holiday and will bring further test kits home with them on Thursday 1st April.

All students will return to the academy on Monday 19th April. I expect all of our students to be on-site from 08:15 ready to begin their first session at 08:25. The students are allowed into the building at 08:15 and are supervised by their form tutor in their classroom. I have become concerned this term that the number of students arriving late has increased. The academy bell rings at 08:25 and students should be seated and learning at this point. Please support your child by ensuring that they are arriving to school on time and ready to learn.

As the temperature in the building has begun to rise and the classrooms are back to a normal temperature we are returning to our regular uniform requirements. When students return on Monday 19th April they will be expected to remove their outdoor coats when they enter the building and the only black jumpers that will be allowed are the academy V neck jumpers. If you need to clarify any aspect of the uniform policy then please refer to pages 22 and 23 of the academy planner. I would also like to draw your attention to the expectations regarding jewellery, makeup, nails and hair. These expectations can also be confirmed on page 23 of the academy planner.

I hope that you have a peaceful and restful Easter break. I am very much looking forward to welcoming all of our students back into the academy Monday 19th April for what promises to be an exciting term of learning and discovery.

Yours sincerely,

A handwritten signature in blue ink, appearing to read 'Rob Southern', with a long horizontal flourish extending to the right.

Rob Southern
Head of School