

2nd March 2021

Important Information regarding the staggered return to school from March 8th

Dear Parents and Carers

I hope that this letter finds you and your family well. It is with great pleasure that I write to you to make you aware of our plans for re-opening Airedale Academy to all students for face to face teaching. We are very excited to welcome back our young people – we have missed them very much! School will continue to look and feel different due to the requirements of the DfE guidance that all schools must adhere to. We will continue to operate our year group bubbles and Student Support Hubs and students will arrive and leave at differing times via all 3 school gates as they did before Christmas. I will send out our updated *Coronavirus Handbook for Parents & Carers* later this week which will contain the most up to date guidance on how the school day will run along with reminder of our key protocols and procedures.

Thank-you for your prompt response to my previous letter about consent for Lateral Flow Testing (LFT) for students. The response has been extremely positive and as a school we will need to undertake over 1500 tests for our students; I'm sure you understand that this is a significant undertaking. In order to ensure that we do this as safely as possible, we will stagger our testing, in line with DfE guidance, over the week commencing 8th March. Students for whom consent has been given, will be tested twice at school during the week commencing 8th March and will then receive a third and final school based test once they have returned to face to face teaching. Tests must be conducted 3-5 days apart. In line with government guidance, once students have been tested 3 times in school, they will be provided with home test kits for regular testing. Further information about this will follow in due course.

Students should attend the Academy during the session indicated in the table below for their LFD test and should wear their full school uniform and face covering. If students are being dropped off, please can I ask that vehicles don't access the school car park. Parents and carers will need to wait in their vehicle as only students can enter the Test Site. Students will attend for their test and then go straight home afterwards. Results will be sent to parent's / carer's email or mobile phone as specified on the consent form. Students who test positive (and their household members) will need to self-isolate in line with the guidance available here: [Stay at home: guidance for households with possible or confirmed coronavirus \(COVID-19\) infection – GOV.UK \(www.gov.uk\)](https://www.gov.uk/guidance/stay-at-home-guidance-for-households-with-possible-or-confirmed-coronavirus-covid-19-infection)

	Monday 8 th	Tuesday 9 th	Wednesday 10 th	Thursday 11 th	Friday 12 th
Year 7	RL	Test 1 – AM	RL	RL	Test 2 – AM
Year 8	RL	Test 1 – AM	RL	RL	Test 2 – AM
Year 9	RL	Test 1 – PM	RL	RL	Test 2 - PM
Year 10	Test 1 – AM	RL	RL	Test 2 – AM	RL
Year 11	Test 1 – AM	RL	RL	Test 2 – AM	RL
Years 12 & 13	Test 1 - PM	RL	RL	Test 2 - PM	RL

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Keyworker Groups Tests	In school	In school	In school – Test 2	In school	In school
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*RL = remote learning at home

	Monday 15th	Tuesday 16th
Year 7	RL	In school normal lessons & Test 3
Year 8	RL	In school normal lessons & Test 3
Year 9	RL	In school normal lessons & Test 3
Year 10	In school normal lessons & Test 3	In school normal lessons
Year 11	In school normal lessons & Test 3	In school normal lessons
Years 12 & 13	In school normal lessons & Test 3	In school normal lessons

*RL = remote learning at home

You will receive a letter later this week which will confirm the exact appointment times for your child's first two tests. On the day of Test 3, your child will receive information about the home testing process.

At the designated time students should:

- Enter site via the Main Student Gate on Crewe Road – staff will be there to welcome students and to answer questions
- Follow our usual Covid-19 systems of control – wear a face covering, stay 2m apart and use hand sanitiser
- Wait on the main path on the 2m socially distanced markers to be escorted to the Test Site
- Follow Test Site staff guidance to administer their own test
- Wait to be escorted back to Main Gate to leave site
- Students will be on site for approximately 30 minutes and will go home after their test

Return to Face to Face Learning

All students in Key Stages 4 and 5 (Years 10, 11, 12 & 13) will return to face to face lessons on Monday 15th March 2021.

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All students in Key Stage 3 (Years 7, 8 & 9) will return to face to face lessons on Tuesday 16th March 2021.

Please note start and finish times for students, as well as their allocated Year Group entry and exit point:

Year	Arrival Time	Gate	Break	Lunch	Location	Finish Time
Y7	8:30am	Step Out	10:50-11:00am	12:35-1:05pm	Canteen	2:35pm
Y8	8:15am	Library	11:00-11:10am	1:05-1:35pm	Canteen	2:35pm
Y9	8:15am	Main	11:00-11:10am	1:05-1:35pm	Theatre	2:35pm
Y10	8:45am	Main	10:50-11:00am	12:05-12:35pm	Theatre	2:50pm
Y11	8:45am	Library	10:50-11:00am	12:05-12:35pm	Canteen	2:50pm
Y 12 & 13	8:30am	Pedestrian		12:35-1:05pm	Theatre	2:35pm

Please note the changes highlighted in yellow above. We have altered the timings of Years 9 and 10 moving forwards; this will enable Year 10 students to access specialist teaching rooms for art, technology, dance, Food Technology, drama and PE to support their GCSE and BTec qualifications.

Remote Learning

We will continue to provide remote learning for all students when they are not in school. The number of staff needed to staff our Test Site, to process and log results with the NHS and to supervise students arriving and leaving for testing means that during the week commencing 8th March lessons will not be live. Remote learning will be a blend of pre-recorded lessons and independent tasks all via Google Classrooms. Teachers have set tasks for students on Friday 5th March that involve as little screen time as possible to try to engage them with learning away from a device!

Keyworker & Vulnerable Student Provision in School

Our Keyworker and Vulnerable student provision will continue as normal until Tuesday 16th March, when all students will be back in face to face lessons. Students accessing this provision, for whom consent has been provided, will be tested as part of their time in school

Face Coverings

The DfE guidance on face coverings has been updated and students are now required to wear a face covering in classrooms in addition to on corridors and in other communal areas. Students will no longer need to wear face covering when outside. It is vital that your child brings their face covering every day and they will also need to be worn if your child uses public transport. If your child is exempt from wearing a face covering for medical reasons please contact your child's Head of Year to arrange an exemption card. Further guidance on face coverings will follow in due course.

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Uniform

Students will be expected to return to school in full uniform as per government guidelines. Both of our uniform suppliers have confirmed that they have plenty of stocks of our uniform. Both offer home delivery and Better and Bright who are based in the market are offering a click and collect service. Please contact your child's Head of Year if you need any support with uniform.

The links to both suppliers are on this page <https://www.airedaleacademy.com/uniform/>

PE Lessons

We have commissioned some emergency building works in line with HSE recommendations to our Upper School Site. Due to the ongoing works, our Upper Sports Halls and changing rooms will be out of use until Friday 26th March. Practical PE lessons will resume for students in Years 7 and 8 once the work is complete, after the Easter holidays.

Finally, I would like to take this opportunity to thank all parents and carers for their continued support during this extended period of remote learning. I am so very proud of the resilience and determination that our students, our families and our staff have demonstrated at such a very difficult time.

We are very much looking forward to welcoming our students back into school!

Yours faithfully



Miss L Proctor
Principal