

25th February 2021



THE ST LEONARDS ACADEMY

PRIDE THROUGH SUCCESS

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Dear Parents and Carers,

Interim Principal: Hannah Carter

I am very pleased to be contacting you today regarding the phased reopening of the Academy for all students from the 8th of March 2021. There are some key changes we have had to make in response to the government guidance and in accordance with our risk assessment; so that we can keep everyone in our community safe.

I would like to take this opportunity to share with you the plan for administering lateral flow device tests to students upon their return to school and share the key changes that we have decided to make in order to keep students, staff and their families as safe as possible.

Return to school dates and lateral flow testing

As you will have seen, the government guidance requires that students will be tested three times upon their return to school. We have developed a test centre on site to allow up to do this. Further guidance about this can be found on the link at the end of this letter.

In order to manage this safely, we will be introducing a phased return to school. The details of this are below:

Date	Year group to be tested via test centre	Year groups to attend school
01/03/2021	7	Non
02/03/2021	11	Non
03/03/2021	Non	Non
04/03/2021	7	Non
05/03/2021	11	Non
08/03/2021	7	7, 11 only
09/03/2021	11	7, 11 only
10/03/2021	10	7, 11 only
11/03/2021	9	7, 10, 11 only
12/03/2021	8 and ETC	7, 9, 10, 11 only
15/03/2021	10	All students return to school
16/03/2021	9	All students return to school
17/03/2021	8 and ETC	All students return to school



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18/03/2021	10	All students return to school
19/03/2021	9	All students return to school
22/03/2021	8 and ETC	All students return to school

To allow us to manage the large numbers of students through the test centre, your child must attend their first test within the following timeslots and they will be dismissed to return home after completing their test at the centre. Please ensure that you are comfortable with how your student will travel to and from the Academy for this as they will be able to leave site immediately after their test. Please do not drive or accompany your student onto the Academy site. If you would like to wait for them then please arrange to meet them somewhere near the entrance or exit. For safeguarding purposes we cannot have parents on site waiting with students.

These are the testing appointments that students will need to attend:

Date	Year group	Surname on the given day and time slot
01/03/2021	7	A - C 8.30 - 9.30
02/03/2021	11	D - H 9.30 - 10.30
04/03/2021	7	I - N 11.00 - 12.00
05/03/2021	11	O - S 12.00 - 1.00
10/03/2021	10	T - Z 1.30 - 2.30
11/03/2021	9	
12/03/2021	8 and ETC students	

After your child has completed their first test, they will return home provided with a card for you to register your child's details and get their results, however we will contact you immediately if your child's does have a positive result.

Your child must have completed one lateral flow device test before they attend school. Your child will complete the test on themselves but will be supported by staff to do this. You must either decline or give consent for this test using the link:

<https://www.thestleonardsacademy.org.uk/school-life/covid-19-testing-consent>

If students arrive on site to have a test and we do not have consent given via this link then we are not permitted to allow them to test.

I have attached a link at the end of this letter for you and your child to understand how a lateral flow device test works.

Remote learning arrangements

Until your child returns to school, it is expected that they will continue to access their remote learning via Microsoft Teams or through home learning books. Attendance to these lessons is still mandatory. On the days during the phased return when students are not being tested they will be expected to access and complete online learning.

Masks and PPE

The new Government guidance is that teachers and students must wear masks in school including in classrooms. Therefore your child will be expected to bring a mask that covers their mouth and nose and this must be worn at all times in the school building including



during lesson time. This also includes moving in the building during break times and purchasing lunch or when speaking staff on duty. If your child is medically exempt from wearing a mask, it is expected that the Academy be provided with written evidence to support this via your child's head of year – they will then be issued with a card to provide staff with to show that they are exempt. Please support us in discussing this with your child before returning and make clear the expectation.

Break times

In order to support reducing the risk of transmission students will not be able to remain in the school building during breaks 1 and 2. They will have full access to the field and all other outdoor spaces. Students will be to purchase food in a slot detailed below and will be expected to wear a mask within the canteen. All food is to be consumed outdoors.

Break 1: Year 7 and 8 canteen access

Break 2: Year 10 and 11 canteen access

Break 1 and 2: Year 9 Pod food access

Students will need to follow the one way system to purchase food and will need to bring a snack to school if they wish to access food on the break time that they do not have access to the canteen.

Attendance to school

The Government have been clear that from the 8th March 2021, all students are expected to return to school after receiving their first negative lateral flow device test. If your child has been issued with a letter requiring them to shield until the 31st of March 2021, we will continue to support your child in accessing learning from home. We do require a copy of your child's shielding letter as evidence of this request and this should be submitted to the Academy office.

Students currently accessing school

Students that are currently accessing in school provision will continue to do so during this staggered return – they will join their year group for any related activities and in other times continue to have in person learning.

School day

The Academy still will employ the bubble model in school. To support this, a one way system is still in place that students must follow. Additionally, students will have separate entrances into the building as we have had in place since September and we will operate a slightly staggered end of the day routine which again has been in place since September. Please ensure all students return in full Academy uniform for their test and for any subsequent visit to site – this is important for safeguarding reasons.

Finally let me thank you all for your support in this and tell you how thrilled we all are to be welcoming our students back into the Academy.

Warmest regards,

Hannah Carter

Interim Principal

Links

<https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/guidance-for-full-opening-special-schools-and-other-specialist-settings/mass-asymptomatic-testing-in-specialist-settings>

<https://publichealthmatters.blog.gov.uk/2020/12/08/lateral-flow-testing-new-rapid-tests-to-detect-covid-19/>