



2nd March 2021

Our Ref: SW/KS

Dear Parent/Carer

I know you will be as pleased as I am that schools are able to reopen to students from Monday 8th March 2021. We are looking forward to having all our students back in school and focusing on their studies.

You will have also seen the Government announcement that students will need to have 3 Coronavirus tests in school over the first 2 weeks of their return, followed by twice weekly home testing. If at any point a student tests positive, then they, and any close contacts will need to self-isolate for 10 days. **Please note that if a student has tested positive for Covid-19 within the last 90 days, they should not take part in this testing. Any students who has received a vaccine should still be tested.**

The Government has given secondary schools discretion to stagger the return of students in order to facilitate mass testing. With this in mind, our plan is as follows:

Year 11 – 13 students will access the Academy at specific times on Friday 5th March to receive their first test. They will then return to full teaching on Monday 8th March.

Year 11 – 13 parents/students have already been notified of this. School transport will be available as normal to bring students in, and will take them home once students have been tested.

Year 8 & 10 students will return at their normal start time (10am) on Monday 8th March. Year 10 students will be tested before accessing their lessons, whilst Year 8 groups will go directly to their normal classroom. Year 8 will access learning, and be tested after the Year 10 students. In order to complete all tests prior to lunchtime, Year 8 lunch will be moved back from 12:30pm to 1pm.

Year 7 & 9 students will return at their normal start time (9am) on Tuesday 9th March. Both Year Groups will go directly to their normal classrooms. Year 9 students will be tested first, followed by Year 7 students.

After the initial tests, students will receive a further two tests in school 3-5 days apart. They will then be provided with a home testing kit containing 6 or 7 tests. The first of these should be completed 3-5 days after the final test in school, followed by twice weekly until further notice. We will provide replacement kits for students when the initial ones have been used.

Acting Headteacher: Mr S Whitehead BA NPQH

Academy Trust registered company name trading as: King James I Academy, Bishop Auckland

Registered Office Address: South Church Road, Bishop Auckland. County Durham DL14 7JZ

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A company limited by guarantee registered in England and Wales under company registration number: 7638979

Charity Registration Number: 527392



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Whilst many of the safety measures in school will remain as they were prior to Christmas, parents and students should be aware that all students are now **expected to wear a face covering at all times inside the Academy buildings. This includes wearing a face mask during lessons. This will be the case until the Easter holidays when we will receive further guidance from the Government. Should a student be exempt for medical reasons, then evidence from a medical professional must be provided.**

In January, prior to the start of lockdown, I sent out letters and electronic consent forms for all parents/carers to complete for their children to allow them to have these tests. If you did not complete this, then a link to the form is on the front page of our website, or you can [click here](#). If you do not have access to technology that will allow you to complete this form online, then please contact the Academy on 01388 603388 to provide verbal permission for your child to be tested.

I would urge all students to take part in this testing which will enable us to track the spread of the virus whilst maintaining student and staff safety as we return to school at this vital time. I know the coming weeks will be challenging for everyone, but I would expect all parents/carers to encourage their child to follow our rules, particularly around wearing face coverings, in order that we can return to some sort of normality as soon as possible.

Yours faithfully

Simon Whitehead
Acting Headteacher



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