

25th February 2021

Dear Parent / Carer,

I'm sure you have heard the good news this week that students will return to face to face teaching in schools from Monday 8th March. We are looking forward to all students returning 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 and that students should only return to lessons following a negative test. A positive test will result in the student needing to self-isolate for 10 days. After these first 3 tests, students will be able to complete tests at home for the foreseeable future, and we will provide the testing kits for this.

In order that our key year groups of 11, 12 and 13 can return to teaching immediately on Monday 8th March, all students from these year groups will need come into school for a short time (maximum 90 minutes) on **Friday 5th March** in order to have their first test.

I would therefore request the following:

- **Year 12 students to attend school at 12.30pm on Friday 5th March**
- **Year 13 students to attend school at 1.30pm on Friday 5th March**
- **Any year 12 or 13 students who normally travel to school via the school bus will be collected by the bus at their normal collection time (ie in the morning) and will be taken home again after their test (max 90 minute wait). Please let us know if your child usually gets the school bus but will not be using this on 5th March.**

Once students have been tested, they can return home and we request that they return directly home in accordance with lockdown rules.

Students will need to maintain social distancing during their time in school, and staff will supervise this in designated waiting areas.

It is also a requirement that students wear face masks at all times when inside the school buildings.

Prior to the start of lockdown, I sent out a link to a letter regarding testing and to the electronic consent form directly to students. If your child did not complete this, please can you encourage them to check their school email, where a reminder has been sent for completion.

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.

Yours Sincerely

Gail Nicholson
Head of Sixth Form

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**

Tel: **01388 603388** Email: **kingjames@kj1a.com**

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

Charity Registration Number: 527392

