

Ref: GDZ

1<sup>st</sup> March, 2021

Dear Parent/Carer,

I hope you and your families are well.

Following on from the Government's announcement on Monday 22<sup>nd</sup> February and my subsequent letter to you on Monday 22<sup>nd</sup> February regarding all schools reopening on 8<sup>th</sup> March, 2021, I am writing to update you on our preparations for all students to return to the Academy from Monday 8<sup>th</sup> March. We know the lockdown has been tough on families and children, so we are therefore very excited to welcome our students back to the Academy for face to face learning. I want to take this opportunity to thank you for your support with remote learning in the last few weeks.

### **Asymptomatic Testing - Lateral Flow Testing (LFT) for students and staff**

The Department for Education (DfE) have confirmed that all students who have consented to the LFT must take their first test before returning to face-to-face learning from Monday 8<sup>th</sup> March. Along with the other protective measures we are taking, these tests can help staff and students remain in school safely. By testing, we will help to stop the spread of the virus and help to keep our school open as safely as possible. The tests are voluntary. However, I hope that you will support us in encouraging your child to participate in the tests as it will help identify people who are carrying the virus, without knowing, and will keep the Academy safe for everyone.

Students will have 3 tests in the Academy, 3 to 5 days apart. After these tests, students will be given tests that they will complete at home. Please note that students will be exempt from taking a test for 90 days after a previous positive test result. If your child has had a positive test result and you have not already done so, please can you contact us as soon as possible to let us have the details. The importance of pre testing is to allow students immediate access to face-to-face education following their first negative test result. Students not undergoing testing should attend school in line with their year group return.

Those taking the test will be supervised by trained staff. The lateral flow tests are quick and easy using a swab of your nose and throat. For under-18s, staff can oversee the swab process. Results take around half an hour from testing and will be shared directly with staff and students participating. Where participants are under-16, parents or legal guardians will also be informed. The Academy has been testing staff and students since 5<sup>th</sup> January, 2021 successfully.

In order to ensure a smooth return of students to the classroom from Monday 8<sup>th</sup> March, we have made plans to test students from Wednesday 3<sup>rd</sup> March, 2021. Please note that students do not need to be in uniform for the tests. The schedule for the testing is below:

### **Wednesday 3<sup>rd</sup> March**

**Year 11 students to be tested** – 9.00am to 11.00am (A bus will be picking students up from 9.15am from the usual collection points).

**Year 10 students to be tested** – 12:00pm to 2:00pm (A bus will be picking students up from 12:00pm from the usual collection points).

## **Thursday 4<sup>th</sup> March**

**Year 9 students to be tested** – 9.00am to 11.00am (A bus will be picking students up from 9:15am from the usual collection points)

**Year 8 students to be tested** – 12.00pm to 2.00pm (A bus will be picking students up from 12:00pm from the usual collection points)

## **Friday 5<sup>th</sup> March**

**Year 7 students to be tested** – 9.00am to 11.00am (A bus will be picking students up from 9:15am from the usual collection points)

All students who arrive for the test should report to the Sports Hall where social distancing measures are in place. Once students finish the test, they will leave the Academy immediately and return home, buses will also wait to transport students back home.

If consent has been given for your child to participate in the testing programme and they are not tested at their allocated dates and time above, we will arrange to test them on the day of their return to the Academy, at a specific time and they will be asked to socially distance from their peers (2m distance away), until they receive their test result back.

## **Consent for Lateral Flow Tests (LFT)**

Please use the link below to complete the consent form for the LFT. The form can also be found on the Academy website.

[COVID-19 testing - LFT consent form](#)

## **Staggered return for all students from Monday 8<sup>th</sup> March, 2021**

In order to ensure that all students who have consented to the Lateral Flow Tests are tested before they start their face-to-face learning, find below the schedule for the staggered return for all students.

**Monday 8<sup>th</sup> March** – All year 11 and year 10 students will return to the Academy

**Tuesday 9<sup>th</sup> March** – All year 9 and year 8 students will return to the Academy

**Wednesday 10<sup>th</sup> March** – All year 7 students will return to the Academy

Remote learning will be in place for all students in years 7, 8 and 9 until they return to the Academy.

**All students attending the Academy from Monday 8<sup>th</sup> March, must be in full school uniform. If there is an issue with your child's school uniform, then please contact their Learning Manager immediately.**

Students who use the school bus will be picked up at the usual pick up points.

## **Staggered timings**

We are conscious of minimising pinch-points and potential student gatherings such as at the start and end of the day both in school and in the local community. Therefore, we will continue with the staggered start times that students were following before the latest lockdown.

Year group	Arrival time	Arrival venue	Lessons start	End of the normal school day
7	8:00	Dining room	8:25	14:30
8	8:05	Back of DT	8:25	14:30
9	8:10	Tennis Court	8:25	14:30
10	8:15	Piazza	8:25	14:30
11	8:20	Back of the Gym	8:25	14:30

It is important that students arrive as close to the arrival time as possible, to ensure they are punctual for lessons, but also to restrict contact with other bubbles and prioritise safe distancing.

**Please see below a reminder of our Academy Expectations**

**Uniform**

All students are required to wear the full Academy uniform. The Academy uniform should not be altered in any way, for example by adding clips, badges or stickers. Skirts must not be adapted; this includes folding them over at the top or wearing a bobble in them. Trousers must not be "taken in" to reduce the width of the leg. Girl's tights must be a minimum of 40 denier. Blazer sleeves must not be rolled up. Please do not purchase non-Outwood uniforms and have the Academy logo sewn onto it. If students are seen with these items they will be asked to change into our loan uniform. **School shoes must be plain black, no trainers, no Vans, no Converse, no boots, no pumps or canvas shoes. Shoes should be of a material that can be polished. The shoes should be free from embellishments and decorations.**

**The shoes pictured below are some of the shoes that do not fulfil the criteria and should not be worn by students as part of their uniform.**



Students will not be reminded of our uniform policy and will be issued with an SLT detention if it is not adhered to at all times. **To order extra items of uniform please go to [www.trutex.com](http://www.trutex.com) or contact the Trutex Direct customer service team by telephone on 01200 421206. The LEA code required to place orders for Outwood Academy Portland is LEA00640SC.**

**Hairstyles, Makeup and Nails**

Hair styles should be sensible and colours should be natural. No student will be allowed into lessons with unnatural hair colour. No offensive patterns should be shaved into hair styles. Hair accessories should be discreet and must be black or purple, no scarves or bandanas (unless for religious reasons).

Hair bobbles must not be worn on the wrist. If in doubt, please contact the Learning Manager. Noticeable makeup is not allowed and any makeup worn must be very discreet.

The decision to what qualifies as discreet rests with the Principal. False eyelashes are not to be worn. Nail polish and any type of false nails (including clear gels, acrylics, extensions, shellac etc) are not allowed.

### **Jewellery and Smart Watches**

No jewellery is allowed except a wrist watch and a medic alert necklace or bracelet. Smart watches are not allowed in the Academy. If a student is thinking about having their ears pierced, or any other piercing, this should be done at the start of the summer holidays, as no student will be allowed to wear earrings or any other jewellery at any time.

### **Mobile Phones**

Mobile phones are not permitted to be used on the Academy premises and should one be brought to school must be turned off and placed in the bottom of the student's bag.

If you have any questions or concerns, please do not hesitate to get in touch. In the meantime, we look forward to seeing your child, either in the Academy for their face-to-face learning or on their lessons on the remote learning platform from Monday 8<sup>th</sup> March, 2021.

Yours faithfully,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'G Dzoboku', enclosed within a circular scribble.

Mr G Dzoboku  
Principal