

3 March 2021

Dear Parents/Carers

RE: DPA ‘Roadmap’ for all to return safely w/b Monday 8 March 2021 (Week D)

Following our message in the newsletter last week we can now confirm the detailed arrangements to return DPA staff and students safely to face-to-face teaching from Monday 8 March. This letter details how we are planning to get students safely back into school as quickly as possible whilst following the clear guidance from the DfE and Public Health England regarding testing, training, and recording results involving the Lateral Flow Tests. To avoid any unnecessary delay, we are planning to test more than 450 students a day. This is not a simple process or easy to organise and administer and your understanding and patience is greatly appreciated.

Therefore, to ensure that we are fully prepared to receive students and staff safely back to the academy and prepare to deliver a full curriculum we will be using the postponed INSET day from January. This will now be on Monday 8th March and this is a great opportunity to complete outstanding tasks, consolidate learning from lockdown and prepare for face-to-face/blended learning over the coming weeks. The published INSET day on Thursday 18th March will now be postponed until a later date.

Phased Return & Lateral Flow Tests (full uniform & face covering)

All students who wish to be tested, using the Lateral Flow Test, and where consent has been provided, will be tested three times at the academy’s test site in the sports hall building. The tests will be overseen by trained staff and to ensure validity a 3-5 day period between each test will be maintained. Can we remind you that the link to the consent form was sent via school comms.

Students will be invited to attend lessons the day following their first negative test and of course further guidance and support will be available for those students who receive a positive result. Our planned phased return and testing arrangements will allow us to support the DfE in ensuring that anyone who is asymptomatic and tests positive has limited contact with others in the academy.

Monday 8 March (Inset/Staff Training Day) – Thursday 18 March 2021

Year	First on-site Test (see attached schedule)	Face-to-face lessons begin	Second on-site Test	Third on-site Test
7	Tues 9 March	Weds 10 March	Fri 12 March	Weds 17 March
8	Tues 9 March	Weds 10 March	Fri 12 March	Tues 16 March
9	Weds 10 March	Thurs 11 March	Mon 15 March	Thurs 18 March
10	Mon 8 March	Tues 9 March	Thurs 11 March	Mon 15 March
11	Mon 8 March	Tues 9 March	Thurs 11 March	Tues 16 March
12	Tues 9 March	Weds 10 March	Fri 12 March	Tues 16 March
13	Mon 8 March	Tues 9 March	Thurs 11 March	Mon 15 March



Kings Reach
 Slough SL3 7UX

Tel: 01753 537 594

Email: office@dittonparkacademy.co.uk

www.dittonparkacademy.co.uk

Nick Caulfield – Principal



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Due to the amount of testing we must do on staff and students it is very important that everyone turns up on the correct day and at the time allocated (Appendix 1). Entry/exit to/from the school will be via the normal double green gates. All testing will take place in the sports hall building. Tests two and three will be completed by taking students out of their classes to the sports hall as they should have all returned and be in lessons by Thursday 11 March.

DfE, February 2021 -Testing is voluntary; however, we would encourage everyone to participate in the asymptomatic testing programme to help break transmission links by identifying those who may be carrying the virus unknowingly.

If your child is not participating in testing, they should attend school in line with our phased return arrangements for each year group (see table above). The exception to this rule is for the vulnerable students and key worker children who have been regularly attending DPA throughout lockdown. They should report to reception as normal in the morning by 8.30am, then join their year group for testing at the allocated time/day and then be in normal lessons with their year group the day after their first negative test.

Timetable

The DfE have requested again that opportunities for the transmission of coronavirus are kept to a minimum in schools and therefore 'bubbles' need to be maintained on our return. Students will **return to a Week D timetable** and will be with their year group on one corridor and for breaks with teachers moving around the academy as per our autumn term arrangements. We will be monitoring the DfE guidance and data very closely and hope that we might be able to return to a more normal way of operating lessons sometime in the summer term. We will of course inform you if this is going to happen nearer the time.

We will continue for you to follow the approach to lessons used during the Autumn term; therefore, if students are isolating (and well), they will still be able (and expected) to attend lessons virtually from home via Teams as lessons will be streamed 'live' and recorded. Where a student is ill, they will be able to catch up when well enough by watching the recorded lessons.

Year	Lessons location	Exit/Entry
7	Teal 3 rd floor	External staircase (Teal)
8	Teal 2 nd floor	Internal staircase (Teal)
9	Plum 3 rd floor	External staircase (Plum)
10	Plum 2 nd floor	Internal staircase (Plum)
11	Plum 1 st floor	External doors to English corridor (Plum)
12	Plum computing rooms	Internal staircase (Plum)
13	Teal 1 st Floor/Room 101	External doors to DT corridor (Teal)

School attendance

The DfE have informed us that school attendance will be mandatory from the day after the first negative lateral flow test and our usual rules on attendance will apply.

As a reminder, pupils should self-isolate and not come to school if they:

- Have coronavirus symptoms or have tested positive
- Live with someone who has symptoms or have tested positive
- Are a close contact of someone who has tested positive

In line with the latest government guidance, pupils who are **clinically extremely vulnerable should not attend school**. If your child is in this group, they should continue to learn from home until further notice. Please provide Ms Baig with a copy of the GP/NHS letter for our records.

For pupils who are self-isolating or shielding, they will be able to access live lessons or recorded lessons via Teams and our blended learning provision. This was very successful before the Christmas break when we had students in school and at home.

Staggered start & finish

Year Group	Start time (M-F)	Finish time (Mon, Tues, Thurs)	Finish time (Wed)	Finish time (Fri)
Year 7	9:00am	3:00pm	3:30pm	1:30pm
Year 8	8:55am	2:55pm	3:25pm	1:25pm
Year 9	8:50am	2:50pm	3:20pm	1:20pm
Year 10	8:45am	2:45pm	3:15pm	1:15pm
Year 11	8:30am	2:30pm	3:00pm	1:00pm
Year 12	8:35am	2:35pm	3:05pm	1:05pm
Year 13	8:40am	2:40pm	3:10pm	1:10pm

After-school clubs

The extra-curricular offer has been heavily affected due to Covid-19 and the arrangements we need to put in place to keep bubbles together and with any contact outside of this to be kept to a minimum. We will look to phase this provision back into our lives over the coming weeks and when it is safe to do so. Further information will be sent out to you and made available through our website.

Interventions

We all know returning to school provides us with the opportunity to consolidate previous learning and start to introduce new content face-to-face. We are, therefore, looking to see what support individuals might need going forwards. Catch-up sessions, weekends, holidays and after school are all possibilities when these

activities are organised, and students will be invited to participate if we feel it is needed.

Breaks – (R) Restaurant / (M) Muga

Year	Break 1 (30mins)	Break 2 (30 mins)	Friday Break (20 mins)
7	M-F 10.00am (R)	M-Th 12.30pm (M)	12.30 (M)
8	M-F 10.00am (M)	M-Th 12.30pm (R)	12.00 (R)
9	M-F 10.30am (R)	M-Th 1.00pm (M)	12.00 (M)
10	M-F 10.30am (M)	M-Th 1.00pm (R)	-
11	M-F 9.30am (M)	M-Th 12.00pm (R)	-
12	M-F 9.30am (R)	M-Th 12.00pm (M)	-
13	M-F 9.30am (R)	M-Th 12.00pm (M)	-

Please check that your child’s Parent Pay account has enough money for them to purchase food from our restaurant. They will also benefit from having a healthy snack and their own water bottle.

Year 11 GCSE & 13 A Level

The government has confirmed it is to press ahead with its plan to use teacher assessment to issue grades this year, and has stressed that unlike last year, there will be “no algorithm”.

Ministers have also promised that pupils will only be assessed on “what they have been taught”, in recognition of the impact the Covid-19 pandemic has had on learning.

Exam boards will provide detailed guidance to schools on how to make grade judgments by the end of the spring term and will also publish “optional” assessment materials by Easter.

The government said teachers could use a “range of evidence”, including mock exam results, coursework, or other work completed as part of a pupil’s course, “such as essays or in-class” tests to arrive at their judgments. This will be confirmed for all parents and students in the coming weeks.

Teachers will then have up until June to submit their students’ grades, to allow “as much teaching time as possible” before assessments are made.

Results days have moved again to Tuesday 10 August, A levels and Thursday 12 August, GCSEs 2021. Details of these will also be made available nearer the time when we have studied the data and know whether this will be in person or virtual like last year.

Home Testing

Secondary schools are expected to do three on-site tests between 3-5 days apart. Pupils will then be asked to conduct their fourth test at home, and then test

themselves twice weekly in the weeks thereafter. The DfE has said that testing at home “should not start” until the week commencing March 15. These will be made available to students at school to bring home and we are hoping/expecting to hand out the first kits when your child has their 3rd and final test delivered by our trained staff at school (see table above for testing schedule).

It is our understanding students will have to sign for them and the registration number of the testing kit will be logged by the school. All results for home tests should be reported by yourselves online or by phone even if the test was negative or void. The contact information will be in the test kit your child receives. You are also required to pass the same information to us so that we can do our close contact/track and trace work. You will be able to do this by going onto to our website and completing the short home testing results survey form found under announcements on the front page.

Details of how DPA will deliver this will be confirmed for all parents and students in the coming weeks.

Surveys/Feedback

We cannot thank you enough for all the very kind and fantastic comments that you have made about our provision and staff. It has been a massive effort from everyone to provide quality learning opportunities and this has been well received with the students responding so positively. Our most recent questionnaires on remote learning from parents and students is providing excellent feedback.

Our safety measures

Rest assured that we’re doing everything we can to make sure our pupils and staff can return to school safely. From 8 March, we’ll continue be taking the following protective measures:

- We’ll ask that all students wear a face covering in classrooms, communal areas, and corridors. This is in line with the latest government guidance for schools.
- Procedures for going to and from school, such as:
 - A reminder that gathering at the school gate, community play area and otherwise coming onto the site without an appointment is not allowed
- Equipment that pupils can take to and from school, e.g.:
 - Limit the amount of equipment, they bring to school to essentials like lunch boxes, bags, books and stationery
 - Avoiding unnecessary sharing of items
- How we’ll keep pupils safe in school, such as:
 - A reminder of hygiene measures such as regular handwashing and using the vast amount of hand sanitizer stations.

› Uniform

- Wear it correctly, in full and with pride.
- Remember to change out of it when they get home.
- Contact your child's AM and raise any issues that exist due to non-essential shops being shut or financial pressures.

Our risk assessment is on our website and will help further answer any questions you might have around our safe return from Monday 8 March using the updated DfE guidelines.

Additional support

Lockdown has been a challenging period for all of us, and we'd like to thank you for your continuing support during this difficult and uncertain time. If you or your child have any concerns about returning to school, or if you think your child might need extra support when they return, please get in touch with their Academic Mentor.

We'd also like to thank you for all your support in helping your child learn from home. We'll continue to keep in touch if we update our plans or if we need to make changes due to new government guidance.

Yours sincerely



Nick Caulfield
Principal



Chris McNab
Associate Principal

Appendix 1

First Lateral Flow Test Schedule – Sports Hall/Activity Studio
Monday 8 March to Wednesday 10 March 2021
(full uniform & face coverings)

Staff and students will be given the opportunity to have a test before returning to school. It is vitally important that the timings are followed so that we can manage expectations, return to face-to-face teaching, enter/exit the school in an orderly fashion, conduct mass testing whilst also working within the DfE guidelines for a safe return for all.

The schedule below shows the student's **English group/class (Yr 7-11) or first letter of their surname for Yr 12 - 13**. Students should arrive at school for their first test in this time slot on the day allocated and then **go home straight after**. Enter/exit the academy via the normal double green gates and proceed to the sports hall. If the test is negative, they may attend lessons the following day. Those with a positive test will be informed/contacted and should self-isolate and follow the DfE guidance.

Time	Monday 8 March (full uniform)	Tuesday 9 March (full uniform)	Wednesday 10 March (full uniform)
8am	Staff	Staff	Staff
8.30am	11a	7a/7x1	9a
9.00am	11b	7b/7x2	9b
9.30am	11c and 11d	7c/7x3 and 7d/7y1	9c
10.00am	11e and 11f	7e/7y2	9d
10.30am	Break	Break	Break
11.00am	11g	7f/7y3	9e
11.30am	10a and 10b	8a/8x1 and 8b/8x2	9f
12.00pm	10c and 10d	8c/8x3 and 8d/8y1	9g
12.30pm	10e and 10f	8e/8y2 and 8f/8y3	
1.00pm	Break	Break	Break
1.30pm	10g and 13 (A-G)	12 (A-G)	Catch-up for any students who missed their first test and want to come to school on Thursday
2.00pm	13 (H-N)	12 (H-N)	
2.30pm	13 (O-Z)	12 (O-Z)	
	Students from above with a negative first test can attend face-to-face lessons on Tues	Students from above with a negative first test can attend face-to-face lessons on Weds	Students from above with a negative first test can attend face-to-face lessons on Thurs