



Executive Headteacher: Mrs S Murcott

26<sup>th</sup> February 2021

Dear Parent, Carer

**Re: Return to school on 8<sup>th</sup> March 2021**

I hope you are all keeping safe and well. May I begin by thanking you for your fantastic support during the most challenging start to 2021. It is unbelievable to think that only this time last year, we were just beginning to consider the impact of a virus that would change all of our lives. Whilst the past twelve months have been tough for all of us, the demands of the pandemic have also brought about the very best in a great many people and it has been overwhelming to see the way staff, students and parents have worked together to overcome some very challenging circumstances.

Today, in addition to providing you with some key information on re-opening plans for students, I'd also like to take this opportunity to formally introduce myself to you. Although I have been working alongside Willenhall E-Act Academy for some months now, I have recently been appointed Executive Headteacher of Walsall Secondary Schools and moving forward, will oversee both Willenhall and West Walsall E-Act Academies. My role is designed to add capacity to the Willenhall Leadership team by working alongside Mr. Bhugvandeem and his team to ensure that together, we continue striving towards providing a first class education for your children.

We are absolutely delighted that following the government announcement, our Academy can re-open on the 8<sup>th</sup> March. While we remain incredibly proud of our virtual learning provision, our children need the routine of normal academy life and the social interaction with teachers and their peers.

**When does the Academy reopen fully?**

There will be a staggered re-opening of the academy which is as follows:

- Year 11 – Monday 8<sup>th</sup> March
- Year 7 – Tuesday 9<sup>th</sup> March
- Year 10 – Wednesday 10<sup>th</sup> March
- Year 8 – Thursday 11<sup>th</sup> March
- Year 9 – Friday 12<sup>th</sup> March

This is to allow time and space for students and staff to be Covid tested safely.

Below are the dates and times for each year group's return to the academy. Each tutor group has been given an allocated time to come into the building to be tested. Students should report to the computer room listed below to begin the NHS registration process and will then be escorted to the Sports Hall to begin testing. Once this process has been completed, students will be escorted to their tutor rooms where lessons will begin as per the normal timetable.

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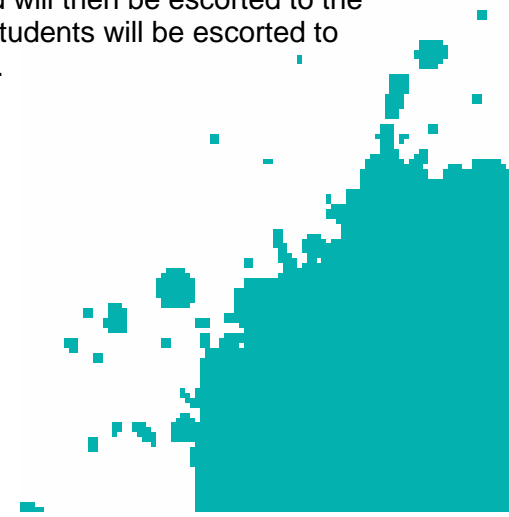
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**Monday 8<sup>th</sup> March:**

Group	Arrival	Computer Room	First Lesson
11X1	8.30	IT5	10.15am
11Y1	9.15	IT3	11.00am
11X2	10.00	IT4	11.45am
11Y2	10.45	IT5	12.30am
11X3 and 11Y3	11.30	IT3	1.15pm

**Tuesday 9<sup>th</sup> March:**

Group	Arrival	Computer Room	First Lesson
7SPE	8.30	IT5	10.15am
7RBA	9.15	IT3	11.00am
7CWI	10.00	IT4	11.45am
7CGA	10.45	IT5	12.30pm
7JSI	11.30	IT3	1.15pm
7CSI	12.15	IT4	2.00pm

**Wednesday 10<sup>th</sup> March:**

Group	Arrival	Computer Room	First Lesson
10X1	8.30	IT5	10.15am
10Y1	9.15	IT3	11.00am
10X2	10.00	IT4	11.45am
10Y2	10.45	IT5	12.30pm
10X3	11.30	IT3	1.15pm

**Thursday 11<sup>th</sup> March:**

Group	Arrival	Computer Room	First Lesson
8CSO	8.30	IT5	10.15am
8REV	9.15	IT3	11.00am
8DOT	10.00	IT4	11.45am
8RPE	10.45	IT5	12.30pm
8MTO	11.30	IT3	1.15pm
8IBE	12.15	IT4	2.00pm
8LCU	1.00pm	IT5	1.45pm

**Friday 12<sup>th</sup> March:**

Group	Arrival	Computer Room	First Lesson
9CTA	8.30	IT5	10.15am
9AAU	9.15	IT3	11.00am
9JSH	10.00	IT4	11.45am
9SLO	10.45	IT5	12.30pm
9SNA	11.30	IT3	1.15pm

**Where students are unable to return to the Academy, they should still be accessing the VLE for online learning and live lessons.**

## How will my child be tested in school?

Via text message or the Parent app, you should have already received an invitation to complete the Covid testing consent form. To consent, please follow the following link:

<https://forms.office.com/Pages/ResponsePage.aspx?id=GO7B01t5ske0wJc0nDNaDpmEQSISpddNpZWny4xGXfpURFY3NUtRWIdVQ09JS0ZDMTY5MUxZUTE3Ty4u>

Should you not wish for your child to be tested, then please email [wea.info@e-act.org.uk](mailto:wea.info@e-act.org.uk)

- Students will be given a registration card that contains a unique bar code that relates to their test
- The card contains information for parents on how to register the test results on to the government website.
- At school, each consenting child will be tested using a lateral flow device test. This involves your child taking their own swab from their tonsils and nostril.
- The result will then be recorded on the Department of Education website.
- A text/email will be sent to parents, once they have registered the details on the registration card.
- Within the first three weeks of school, students will be tested three times to get them used to the process.
- Following this period, students will be sent home with two lateral flow testing kits per week where they can follow the same process at home.

## After re-opening, what other changes should I be aware of?

After all students have returned in their first week, 8<sup>th</sup> March, the following timings will be in place **commencing the 15<sup>th</sup> March** until the end of the academic year.

Year	Arrival	Departure	Access Point
7	08:30	15:00	Sports Hall Gate
8	08:35	15:05	Attendance
9	08:40	15:10	Underpass
10	08:45	15:20	Canteen Door
11	08:50	16:00	English Area

When arriving and leaving the academy, students should avoid being too early and avoid hanging around at the end of the day. Likewise, parents dropping off or collecting their child, should avoid congregating around the school gate, this is again to minimise risks.

## Will students and staff be wearing masks?

To ensure that all risks are reduced, **students and staff will be wearing masks at all points during the day including in lessons.** Please can you assist academy staff by ensuring your child comes to school every day with a clean mask and remind your child that this needs to be on before they enter through the school gates.



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### **What will happen at breaks and lunchtimes?**

Lunch and breaks will continue to be staggered in bubble locations. Weather permitting, students will be able to access outdoor areas which will offer our 'bubbles' some extra space and fresh air.

Students will be expected to wash/sanitise their hands regularly throughout the school day, before and after breaks and lunch and before home time.

Hot meals will be available and accounts can be credited in the usual way via Parent Pay.

### **What happens if my child becomes ill at school?**

We will of course, need your continued help and support to keep the academy safe as we return. If your child or somebody else in your household has Coronavirus symptoms, they should stay home until tested. Likewise, the government guidance says that if there is a confirmed case in school, then we will continue to work with the relevant health authorities to ensure that anyone who was in close contact with them when they were infectious is notified and self-isolates until tested.

Any child displaying Covid-19 symptoms during the school day will be immediately isolated from their peers. Parents will be informed and you will need to collect your child as a matter of urgency.

Staff and students will continue to take lateral flow tests in school to begin with and then will be offered two tests to complete at home each week. This is to identify positive cases more quickly and break the chain of transmission.

### **How can parents/carers support us?**

Parents/visitors should avoid coming into the school office/reception area unless there is an emergency (e.g. collecting a sick child).

All communication with the school office should be made via email or telephone.

Parents collecting or dropping of their child should not congregate and should adhere to social distancing measures.

If you have any questions regarding the reopening plans, please ring the main reception on 01902 368221 and your query will be answered.

In the meantime, we look forward to welcoming your child back into the Academy building.

Yours sincerely,

Sarah Murcott  
Executive Headteacher of Walsall Secondary Schools.

