



25th February 2021

Dear Parents/ Carers,

As you're likely aware, the government has announced that schools will reopen to all students from **8th March**. Prior to returning to school, students will be required to have a lateral flow test. We're very much looking forward to welcoming back all of our students to face-to-face education as soon as they have been tested.

Coronavirus testing

It has been our priority to keep all our children and staff safe throughout this pandemic, and this remains paramount to us. To help us keep everyone safe, we are requesting that all students undertake rapid coronavirus testing as they return from 8th March. Students will be asked to take 3 coronavirus tests at school, with 3 to 5 days between each test. Test results will take about 30 minutes to process. Before their test, students will be registered and will need to know their **postcode, email address and mobile number or parent's mobile number**.

Students can return to school the day after their first negative result. If at any point they test positive, they'll need to self-isolate in line with government guidance.

Testing is not compulsory and we will require informed consent from you and/ or your child in order for it to be carried out. However, we feel it is vitally important that your child takes part so we can help prevent the spread of coronavirus. If your child is not participating in testing, they should attend school as usual in line with our phased return arrangements.

After the 3 initial tests at school, students will be offered coronavirus tests that they should take twice a week at home. Details on how home testing will work will be explained at a later date.

School attendance

On the week starting 8th March, in order to accommodate lateral flow testing there will be a phased return of all students (see timetable).

Once your child has returned to school after testing, attendance will be mandatory and our usual rules on attendance will apply.

As a reminder, students 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, students who are **clinically extremely vulnerable should not attend school**. If your child is in this group, please provide the school with a copy of their shielding letter. Your child will then be advised to learn from home until further notice. For students who are self-isolating or shielding, we will be providing the same remote provision that has been offered during the lockdown.

Student phased return arrangements due to COVID testing

Please see table below for the time your child should come to be tested. Students MUST arrive to school promptly for their first test and report to the SVB. When their test has been completed they should then return home to complete their online learning for the day.

This timetable does not apply to students' year 7-11 and ACE who are already attending school-they will be in school as normal.

Timetable for phased return

Monday 8th March

<u>Year Group</u>	<u>Action</u>			
Years 7, 8, 9, & ACE	Remote learning from home. Do not attend school.			
Year 10	Test 1 at school. Times to arrive to school are below:			
	10N 11.40am	10O 12.00pm	10E 12.25pm	10L 12.45pm
	10B 1.50pm	10A 2.10pm	10K 2.35pm	10R 2.55pm
Year 11	Test 1 at school. Times to arrive to school are below:			
	11N 8.00am	11O 8.20am	11E 8.45am	11L 9.05am
	11B 9.30am	11A 9.55am	11K 10.15am	11R 10.35am

Tuesday 9th March

<u>Year Group</u>	<u>Action</u>				
Year 7	Test 1 at school. Times to arrive to school are below:				
	7N 8.00am	7O 8.20am	7E 8.45am	7L 9.05am	7B 9.30am
	7A 9.55am	7K 10.15am	7R 10.35am	7P 11.40am	
Year 8/ ACE	Remote learning from home. Do not attend school.				
Year 9	Test 1 at school. Times to arrive to school are below:				
	9N 12.25pm	9O 12.45pm	9E 1.50pm	9L 2.10pm	
	9B 2.35pm	9A 2.55pm	9K 3.10pm	9R 3.30pm	
Year 10	In school. Normal timetable.				
Year 11	In school. Normal timetable.				

Wednesday 10th March

<u>Year Group</u>	<u>Action</u>			
Year 7	In school. Normal timetable.			
Year 8/ ACE	Test 1 at school. Times to arrive to school are below:			
	8N 8.00am	8O 8.45am	8E 9.30am	8 10.45am
	8A 11.30am	8K 12.15pm	ACE 1.00pm	
Year 9	In school. Normal timetable.			
Year 10	In school. Normal timetable.			
Year 11	In school. Normal timetable.			

From Thursday 11th March

All students will be in school and will take their 2nd and 3rd tests during the school day. See below:

Year 7	Test 2 Monday 15 th March	Test 3 Friday 19 th March
Year 8/ ACE	Test 2 Tuesday 16 th March	Test 3 Monday 22 nd March
Year 9	Test 2 Tuesday 16 th March	Test 3 Monday 22 nd March.
Year 10N, 10E, 10L, 10B	Test 2 Friday 12 th March	Test 3 Wednesday 17 th March
Year 10A, 10K & 10R	Test 2 Monday 15 th March (10R during P6).	Test 3 Friday 19 th March
Year 11	Test 2 Friday 12 th March (11N & 11O during P6).	Test 3 Wednesday 17 th March.

Safety Measures

As already stated, the safety of all of our staff and students is paramount. As such, from 8th March, we'll 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. If your child is exempt, please provide the school with the exemption letter;
- We will continue to have staggered starts and ends to the school day to keep year groups apart as they arrive and leave;
- Please avoid coming to the school for drop off and collection so that we reduce the number of people at the school gates. Visits to school by parents are by appointment only. Please make an appointment with the member of staff beforehand if you wish to have a meeting. Meetings can also take place remotely;

- We will still be limiting the amount of equipment your child brings to school. All their work booklets and exercise books will remain at school along with equipment that we will continue to provide. Sharing of items and equipment is not allowed;
- Year groups will remain in bubbles in dedicated zones within the school;
- Separate year group bubbles will take their breaks and lunches at different times;
- Hygiene measures, such as hand-washing and sanitizing will continue to take place throughout the school day;

Other information

- **INSET:** In preparation for us to welcome all students back on the 8th March, we will be having an **INSET on Friday 5th March**, so school will be closed to ALL students on this day.

- **Punctuality-** Students are expected to be punctual for school. Arrival timings are below:

Year 8/ACE – Roll call on the MUGA at 8.15am

Year 11 – Enter via Theatre at 8.25am

Year 10 – Roll call on the MUGA at 8.25am

Year 9 – Roll call on the MUGA at 8.50am

Year 7- Roll call on the MUGA at 9.05am

- **Equipment/ booklets:** It is vital that all exercise books and work booklets are brought back to school on your child's first day of full attendance.
- **Uniform:** Full school uniform is expected when children return to school. Students are to wear their full PE kit on their designated PE days only. Full details of our uniform can be found here (<https://www.noelbakeracademy.co.uk/uniform/>)
- **Laptops:** If your child received a laptop to support their remote learning, Mrs. Jackson will inform you of the arrangements to return them.

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 year group Pastoral Leader or the attendance team:

- attendance@noelbakeracademy.co.uk or Pastoral@noelbakeracademy.co.uk

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.

Warm regards,



Mrs A Donaghy
Headteacher