

19th April 2021

Dear parents and carers,

Summer term

I hope you and your family are well and you have all enjoyed the Easter holidays.

A few quick reminders for the start of term.

Non symptomatic pupil testing

All pupils of secondary school age should take at least one lateral flow COVID test before the start of term and then continue with home testing. The home testing kits were given out last term. If you do not have your home testing kit please contact the office or your child's pastoral team.

The testing is to help find non symptomatic pupils who unbeknown to them are carrying COVID 19.

If a positive result comes back then the normal isolation procedures would be followed.

This will reduce any possible cross infection in schools, to families and the local community.

Although these tests are voluntary it is the government's and our expectation that all children and staff take these tests as it will help the Academy to continue to open safely and reduce risk.

The expectation is that all children will have at least one negative test before they start back on Tuesday 20th April.

Here is the link to upload your child's results, which is also on our website.

<https://bit.ly/SAATesting>

Masks

Sadly, the face mask rule for classrooms is still in place. In all communal and classroom areas pupils and staff not exempt will be expected to wear masks.

Please ensure you have a good supply of face masks at home and your child carries more than one to school each day.

We are maintaining all other safety measures. This includes the normal staggered starts and finishes, separate entrances / exits, year group bubbles at break and lunchtime, ventilation and regular hand washing.

To confirm the staggered starts and finishes:

Year 7, Year 8 and Year 9

8.20 start and finish at 2.30pm (apologies wrong time was given before Easter)

Year 10 and Year 11

9.30 start and finish 3.30pm

Uniform

All pupils will be expected to return in full uniform and have their own equipment.

We do have ties available if your child needs one.

We were rightly lenient last term due to most retail shops being closed but we must insist that uniform standards and in particular shoe wearing is back to normal this term.

Hoodies and random jumpers will not be allowed and coats should not be worn in classrooms unless there is a weather change and we will decide this not individual pupils.

Please check that jewellery, false nails and false eye lashes are removed.

Year 11 do not have to buy new blazers if they have outgrown theirs but otherwise they should be in the correct uniform.

Moving around the Academy

Due to the current low levels of COVID infections across Maidstone, we are able to allow pupils to move around the Academy for all of their lessons. Yes, they have to wear masks, but we are able to offer a nearly full curriculum in all their specialised areas. I know pupils will enjoy moving around and not being stuck in one room for most of a day.

Homework

Most pupils have got back to attending school and then completing homework. There are a significant number of pupils who have not yet got back into this routine. With all children missing so much education it is really important that all children complete their homework which aids learning and memory recall. We will be moving to an easier to use homework system, which links to Microsoft teams next year.

Thank you for continuing to support your child's learning

Please continue to support the testing process and other COVID safety measures so we can get back to normal schooling as quickly as possible.

Good luck to all the Year 11 pupils who have the next few weeks to complete their final mini assessments to provide evidence for their GCSE grades.

Kindest regards

Mr Feldwick

Principal