



3 January 2022

Dear Parent/Carer

Principal: Mrs N Waker

I want to begin my first communication of 2022 by wishing all parents/carers and pupils a Happy New Year. I hope you have been able to enjoy a healthy and happy Christmas break.

Outlined in this letter are the academy's re-opening arrangements (these remain unchanged from my communication on 16 December 2021) and an overview of our onsite testing arrangements, alongside any further updates for the start of our new term.

I hope you find this information useful in readiness for your child's return to the academy this week.

January start of term arrangements

Year 11 pupils only

All pupils in Year 11 should attend the academy from 10am onwards on Tuesday 4 January 2022. Face to face lessons will commence at the start of period 3 and then run throughout the day. This includes recovery curriculum for all pupils in Year 11. Pupils should return in full academy uniform. Any pupil in Year 11 requiring an onsite test will be tested prior to entry to the academy. These pupils should make their way to the Bungalow for their allocated time, provided prior to the Christmas break as a sticker in their planners.

From Wednesday 5 January all pupils in Year 11 should then attend the academy at their usual time unless informed otherwise.

Year 7, 8, 9 and 10.

All pupils in year groups 7, 8, 9 and 10 will be able to access remote learning via Teams from 10am (period 3) on Tuesday 4 January 2022. This work will be a combination of live lessons, live events and/or work set by teachers in the class Teams' area. Pupils should log into live lessons through their calendar on Teams.

We will post any relevant links and information relating to remote learning on Tuesday 4 January 2022 on our SharePoint platform. Each pupil is also part of a 'HA Year Remote Learning Team' where messages regarding lessons may be posted. Pupils should know how to access both Teams and our SharePoint platform, but please follow the link shown below to our website remote learning guides for further support if you require it. <https://horbury.accordmat.org/remotelearning/>

Year 7, 8, 9 and 10 pupils will be able to make a full return at their normal start time on Wednesday 5 January 2022. Pupils should return in full academy uniform.

On site testing

On site testing will still take place on Tuesday 4 January 2022 only for **pupils who have already requested a test**. Tests will be carried out at the times allocated via pupil planners. Tests will take place in our academy Bungalow (in the carpark facing the academy). Once a pupil has completed

their test they will return home to engage in their learning with their peers (with the exception of Yr11). Pupils should attend their test in full academy uniform.

Covid-19 guidance updates

Face coverings in communal areas and classrooms

You may be aware that the guidance has changed slightly in that it is now recommended that pupils wear face coverings in classrooms and communal areas unless exempt. As such, it is essential that all pupils attend the academy with a suitable face covering when they return to the academy. We would ask all parents and carers to support our young people with this. Teachers are not expected to teach whilst wearing face coverings, although this continues to remain the choice of individual staff. Face coverings do not need to be worn outside or during activities where they may impede performance for example PE.

The guidance around face coverings is temporary and will be reviewed again on the 26 January. For all who wish to read the latest guidance for schools it can be found at the web link below:

[Updated coronavirus guidance for schools](#)

Changes to the self-isolation period

Since Wednesday 22 December, the 10-day self-isolation period for people who record a positive PCR test result for COVID-19 has been reduced to 7 days in most circumstances, unless you cannot test for any reason.

Individuals may now take LFD tests on day 6 and day 7 of their self-isolation period. Those who receive two negative test results are no longer required to complete 10 full days of self-isolation. The first test must be taken no earlier than day 6 of the self-isolation period and tests must be taken 24 hours apart. This also applies to children under five, with LFD testing at parental or guardian discretion. If both these test results are negative, and the person does not have a high temperature, they may end their self-isolation after the second negative test result and return to school from day 7.

Testing prior to returning to the Academy

All pupils are encouraged to take an LFD test on Monday 3 January (or 4 January if they return on Wednesday) and record their results with the academy and NHS Track and Trace. The academy test recording page remains active on the academy website. In cases where an LFD test is positive pupils should not attend the academy and seek a PCR test as soon as possible. Please ensure that any positive LFD and/or PCR test results are reported to the Academy absence line as soon as possible. The contact number is 01924 282740

Thank you in anticipation of your support. I very much look forward to welcoming our pupils back into the academy.

Yours sincerely



Mrs N Walker
Principal