

# Armthorpe Academy



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Our ref: CRO/DMC

26<sup>th</sup> February 2021

Dear Parent/Carer

## A return to school!

It is with great joy that I write this week finally with positive news about a return to the school building for all our students. You are no doubt aware that the government have announced Secondary School children can start to return to school from Monday 8<sup>th</sup> March. At Armthorpe, we will be operating a phased reintegration to ensure lateral flow testing can be completed safely and efficiently, but also to enable expectations and routines to be clearly disseminated to all learners. Students have been absent from the school building for a long time, therefore clear routines and consistency will be key in ensuring an effective return. The table below details return dates.

Date	Year Group to Return	Year Groups in the Academy
Monday 8 <sup>th</sup> March	10	10
Tuesday 9 <sup>th</sup> March	11	10 & 11
Wednesday 10 <sup>th</sup> March	7	10, 11 & 7
Thursday 11 <sup>th</sup> March	8	10, 11, 7 & 8
Friday 12 <sup>th</sup> March	9	All year groups

## Lateral Flow Tests

Thank you to parent/carers who have completed consent for lateral flow tests. This will help to protect our school community by identifying any students that are asymptomatic on our return. The government have requested that four tests are completed within the first two weeks back at school: three tests at school, one at home. Each year group has been split into four groups of 30; this is because we have 30 lateral flow testing desks that can be used at any one time in the Sports Hall. Students cannot return to class until their first test is negative. Each test takes approximately 30 minutes to process (please see the attached PowerPoint for greater detail and information). To ensure students are not stood outside waiting a long time to be tested, groups will also be staggered throughout the morning from 8:15am until 11:15am. Parents and students will both receive notification of arrival and testing times in a bespoke email by the end of school on Wednesday 3<sup>rd</sup> March, if you do not receive an email please contact [academy-admin@armthorpeacademy.org.uk](mailto:academy-admin@armthorpeacademy.org.uk).

If you have not consented to lateral flow testing for your child, they need to return to school at 8:30am on their respective start date. Please do not send your child into school on Monday 8<sup>th</sup> March unless they are in Year 10. There will be a small number of key worker places available in school for the week beginning the 8<sup>th</sup> March, but these will only be available to students who have previously accessed the provision and if a place in school is absolutely necessary. I am sure you can understand that the testing process is a logistical challenge, as such, we thank you in anticipation for your help and support working with us to ensure a safe and smooth transition back into school for all our community.

All stakeholders, as per national guidance, will be required to wear a face covering in school unless medically exempt.



Headteacher: Mrs Claire Robbins

Inside everyone there is a rainbow waiting to shine.

Ambition

Pride

Resilience

Respect

Responsibility



## **Expectations**

The children of Armthorpe deserve the very best, for this to happen, high expectations need to be the norm. We have re-evaluated policies to ensure expectations are clear. Please read the attached PowerPoint that details information about:

- The use of mobile phones in school.
- The use of a planner in school.
- Behaviour, praise and reward and expectations in the classroom.
- COVID health and safety requirements.

The COVID re-integration plan with audio and videos is also available to view on the academy website.

## **Uniform**

Please note students will be returning in full uniform when we return in March. As some children may have understandably grown during our absence from school, please use the next week to ensure all uniform fits. Students will also require a bag large enough to carry an A4 folder. Please note, from September, school shoes will be compulsory for all students, therefore if you are buying new footwear, I would recommend you do not waste money on black trainers.

## **Away from the screen day**

To enable appropriate staff training to take place to ensure we are ready on Monday 8<sup>th</sup> March, next Tuesday, the 2<sup>nd</sup> March will be an 'away from the screen day'. This will also provide a welcome respite from the screen for students for the day. Activities will be posted on year group teams on Monday. There will be a careers talk for Year 11, but the majority of activities will encourage students to complete activities in the household or open air.

Take care and stay safe.

Yours sincerely



Claire Robbins  
Headteacher