



**Central Academy**

The best in everyone

Part of United Learning

DMA/LFA

25<sup>th</sup> August, 2021

Dear Parents/Carers

I do hope you have had a good summer and are ready for the start of a new academic year. In July, I wrote to you outlining how we will return in September, and I am pleased to say that the changes are minimal as society continues to be very open at this stage. Below I have outlined key information for parents to prepare for the return to school:

### Students Return & Mass Testing:

Students will have a staggered start to the academic year to allow for mass testing to take place, this will be very similar to the return to school in March. Below I have outlined how the students will return:

- **Wednesday 1<sup>st</sup> September 2021** – INSET Day.
- **Thursday 2<sup>nd</sup> September 2021** – **Years 7, 11 and 12** students will come in for appointment tests only, then go home.
- **Friday 3<sup>rd</sup> September 2021** – **Years 7, 11 and 12** students return to the Academy, **Years 8, 9, 10 & 13** students come in for appointment tests only, then go home.
- **Monday 6<sup>th</sup> September 2021** – **All** students return to the Academy.

In order for mass testing to take place we need parental consent. Please can you click the link [HERE](#) to access the consent form. Please complete this even if you completed the form last academic year. This can also be accessed on the school website. On returning to school, students are expected to take two Lateral Flow Tests, 3-5 days apart. Below I have outlined the testing schedule for each year group:

Year Group	Test 1	Test 2
Year 7	2/9/21 at 10 am	6/9/21 Period 3
Year 11	2/9/21 at 12 noon	6/9/21 Period 1
Year 12	2/9/21 at 2 pm	6/9/21 Period 1
Year 8	3/9/21 at 9:30 am	7/9/21 Period 1
Year 9	3/9/21 at 11:30 am	7/9/21 Period 2
Year 10	3/9/21 at 1:30 pm	8/9/21 Period 1
Year 13	3/9/21 at 2:30 pm	8/9/21 Period 3

The students will enter via reception for their first test and will go straight home as soon as they have been tested. You will be notified later in the day with the result of the test. Once students have taken two tests, we will issue home testing kits on Friday 10<sup>th</sup> September. Mr Dyer will write to you with clear instructions how to use the home testing kits.



**Central Academy**

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## Covid-19 Protocols

As you will have seen on the news there have been significant changes to how schools will operate from September. From September the school will broadly return to normal. Therefore, there are no longer year group bubbles or the expectation to wear masks. Of course, if students choose to wear masks that is absolutely fine. This will ensure that students can follow the full curriculum and have a much more “normal” experience of school. The DfE have outlined four steps for schools to follow, below I have outlined the step and how we are addressing this as a school:

- 1) Promote good hand hygiene
  - a. Catch-it, Bin-it, Kill-it advice on display around school
  - b. All teaching areas have sanitising stations
  - c. All classrooms have a sanitising station
- 2) Maintain appropriate cleaning regimes
  - a. Enhanced Covid-19 cleaning will continue during the day
  - b. All classrooms will be sanitised after use
  - c. Communal areas will be cleaned regularly
- 3) Keep occupied spaces ventilated
  - a. We are very lucky to have a high quality ventilation system
  - b. Classrooms will have doors propped open and windows where appropriate
- 4) Follow all Public Health England advice on testing, self-isolation and managing confirmed cases of Covid 19
  - a. Continue to liaise with PHE when students test positive
  - b. All students that test positive on Lateral Flow Tests must go for a PCR test
  - c. All students displaying symptoms must self-isolate and go for a PCR test

A reminder the three main symptoms for Covid-19 are:

- A new, continuous cough
- A high temperature
- A loss or change to your sense of smell or taste

If your child has any of these symptoms, they must have a PCR test and the result must be reported to [covid@rrca.org.uk](mailto:covid@rrca.org.uk). Similarly, if your child is contacted by PHE to self-isolate please email as stated above. For further information, you can find our most up-to-date risk assessment on the school website.

## The School Day

A reminder the school day will be changing from September to enhance students’ learning experiences and provide students with enough time to embed deep concepts. We are trialling this for the autumn term and we will be asking for you and your child’s views on this regularly, so please, do share when we ask. An example of how the school day will look is below:

Years 10, 11, 12 & 13		Years 7, 8, 9	
Activity	Time of Day	Activity	Time of Day
Lesson 1	08.35 – 10.15	Lesson 1	08.35 – 10.15
Lesson 2	10.15 – 12.15	Break	10.15 – 10.35
Break within Lesson 2	11.05 – 11.25	Lesson 2	10.35 – 12.15
Tutor Time/Reading	12.15 – 12.50	Lunch	12.15 – 12.45
Lunch	12.50 – 13.20	Tutor Time/Reading	12.45 – 13.20
Lesson 3	13.20 – 15.00	Lesson 3	13.20 – 15.00

You will see that we are allocating time with Tutors during the school day alongside our whole school reading programme. A reminder the school site will be open from 08:15 until 16:30 for students to allow for our breakfast club and any extra-curricular activities.

## **Uniform**

Uniform expectations are now back to normal with students expected to wear full school uniform for lessons including the PE uniform for PE lessons. We advise all students to bring their PE kit on the first day just in case they have a PE lesson. Please refer to our website <https://www.rrca.org.uk/information/uniform> for our up-to-date uniform expectations. If you have any queries, please contact our uniform mailbox at [uniform@rrca.org.uk](mailto:uniform@rrca.org.uk)

## **Breakfast, Break & Lunch**

We are pleased to announce that our full catering service will be back this term. The Academy will open from 08:15 – 08:30 for breakfast in the school canteen, this will start from Monday 6<sup>th</sup> September. Students will also be able to take advantage of snacks at breaktime as well as a meal at lunchtime. More information including our price list is on the school website <https://www.rrca.org.uk/information/school-catering>. If you are new to the school, you will be receiving your parent pay information shortly so your child can purchase food on their first day.

## **Bike Safety**

Many students travel to the Academy using bikes. This will continue to operate the same way as last academic year. Please refer [HERE](#) for key information about cycle routes to and from school. It is vital that students wear the appropriate safety equipment including a helmet when travelling to and from school as the roads around the city centre are very busy, especially at the end of the school day. We also cannot accommodate any electric scooters on school site as this method of travel is illegal.

## **Student Welcome Back Video**

Next Tuesday we will publish our welcome back video for all students. This will run through how the Academy will run and remind students where to enter and exit the Academy. The video will also include information on subjects, uniform and how we will conduct our mass testing. We will share this video on the school website and through our social media platforms.

## **Year 7 – Meet the Tutor Evening**

On Monday 6<sup>th</sup> September we will be running a Year 7 meet the tutor evening. This will include a presentation from myself and the Senior Leadership Team alongside an opportunity to meet your child's tutor. The session will run from 4:45 pm until 6:00 pm. If you are unable to attend, please don't worry a recorded version will be available on the website the following day.

## **Principal's Live Broadcast**

For all other year groups, we will run a live broadcast on Thursday 9<sup>th</sup> September to outline the year ahead, topics will include:

- Key staff introductions
- Academy expectations – including behaviour, uniform and attendance
- Rewards
- Assessments and Parents' Evening
- Curriculum and the school day

- Extra-curricular opportunities
- Home learning
- Covid 19 protocols

We will be running two sessions due to the number of attendees the first one 4 pm until 5 pm and a later session 6 pm until 7pm. You will have the opportunity to ask questions at the end of the presentation. Links to the live broadcast will be on the school website. Please note Year 7 parents do not need to attend this event as the information will be shared at the Meet the Tutor Evening. Recordings of both events will be published on the website after the event.

Thanks again for all of your support over the summer. We are really excited to welcome students back to the Academy for a new term and a new year. However, if you have any questions feel free to email the school email on [info@rrca.org.uk](mailto:info@rrca.org.uk) and a member of staff will contact you with a response. Enjoy the rest of your summer break!

Kind regards



**Dan Markham**  
**Principal**