Dear Parent/Carer,

Firstly, from all of us at Parkwood E-ACT Academy, we would like to thank parents yet again, for your unwavering support. We understand what a difficult time this has been for everyone and we are always astonished by your support, both for the Academy and your children.

As well as outlining our return to school from the 8th March, we want to assure you that all necessary safety measures are in place and are being strictly adhered to. If your child has a special educational need and either they or you are anxious about the return, please contact sarah.husband@e-act.org.uk to discuss further support.

**Face masks**

The change in government guidance now requires **face masks to be worn in lessons** as well as in social areas and corridors. Students are expected to provide their own face mask as this is something we are all used to having to wear.

**Lateral Flow Testing for Pupils- March 2021**

As you may be aware, the government have asked that pupils are offered 3 lateral flow tests in school to support the safe reopening of schools. The reason we need to carry them out in school is to ensure that pupils understand how to self-swab effectively before we introduce home testing kits - I will write to you about this in due course. We are appealing to you to support us with this process, but I must remind you that all testing is voluntary. If you wish for your child to be tested in school, **can you please return your consent form** as a matter of priority or bring the paper version with you on the day, if you have not already done so, as we are unable to carry out the test without it.

**We will not prohibit any pupil from attending school if they do not take a test.**

**Test date: Monday 8th March**

|  |  |  |
| --- | --- | --- |
| Time | Tutor group code | Tutor |
| 9.00-9.30 | 11Sf1 | Miss Robinson |
| 9.30- 10.00 | 11Lx2 | Mrs Barney |
| 10.00-10.30 | 11Ri3 | Miss Sinclair |
| 10.30-11.00 | 11Po4 | Mr Clayton |
| 11.00- 11.30 | 11Sf5 | Mr Rahim |
| 11.30-12.00 | 11Po6 | Miss Smart (Mrs Kelly) |
| 12.00-12.30 | 11Ri7 | Miss Cashman |
| 12.30-1.00 | 11Sf8 | Mrs Rhodes |

The list above is based on the tutor groups the pupils were in before we broke up for the Christmas holidays.

The key worker student hub will continue to operate for the year group up to the return date. Students attending the hub will be brought down to test during the day.

**Pupils do not need to be in uniform on the testing day.**

**As soon as your child has taken their test, they must leave the school site.**

**Please note: Work will not be set on the day your child is scheduled to have a test. We do not wish to add extra pressure to pupils by expecting them to catch up work that they miss through no fault of their own.**

You will be notified of the test result via the NHS Test and Trace site (text or email) on the same day of testing.

What happens next?

If your child receives a negative result, no further action is necessary, and your child will return to school on Tuesday 9th March.

What to do if your child receives a positive result:

Your child and anyone they live with must self-isolate to avoid spreading the infection to other people.

**Return date: Tuesday 9th March**

The year group hubs will remain in place. Entrances and times of the day will remain the same.

**Uniform**

We wish to remind parents and carers that full uniform is expected on return to school on Tuesday 9th March. Students can still come to school in their PE kit on days where they have this on their timetable. We will review our approach to this as lockdown measure are eased. We would also like to remind you that shoes must be black, polishable with no logo and jeans and jeggings are not permitted. Black blazers and other compulsory items of uniform should be purchased online.

Please see the link for our uniform provider’s website: <http://www.www.pbuniform-online.co.uk/parkwood>

**Returning devices**

In order to ensure we can track students returning IT equipment we ask you keep these items at home for now. We will update you with how we would like you to bring items back into school shortly.

**Attendance**

**In addition, the recent government guidance has highlighted that attendance at school is compulsory for all students except where they are clinically extremely vulnerable. Should attendance become a concern the guidance also states that fining due to lack of attendance will resume. We know that you agree that attendance at school is vital to students progress and future success.**

Please do not hesitate to contact us to have any concerns resolved. We are here to support you and your family in any way we can.

We are looking forward to welcoming all our students back into our school community. Thank you for your continuing support, patience and understanding at this time.

Yours sincerely,



Gemma Cottingham

**Headteacher**