

Monday 1<sup>st</sup> March 2021

Dear Parents and Carers

I hope you and your family are well. Thank you for your continued support and understanding as we collectively handle the challenges posed by Covid-19.

You will no doubt have seen the Prime Minister's announcement that schools will re-open fully, for all students, from Monday 8<sup>th</sup> March 2021, in order to ensure testing can take place for all students before the full return to face to face education. The Government has given secondary schools discretion as to how to phase the return to school over that week, in order to accommodate our arrangements for testing. I am writing to you now to clarify our arrangements. Our approach is very much one of prioritising safety for all. We know that a safe, steady and gradual approach to this will enable us to ensure our students, staff and wider community are as safe as possible. We are looking forward very much to having all students back in our school, and want to assure you that – as has been the case throughout the coronavirus crisis – we will endeavor to make the academy as safe as possible. Your child's health, and the health of all our students and staff, remains the most important factor always for us.

#### **Keeping our academy safe**

We will, of course, be following the government's public health guidance very closely, ensuring social distancing and 'bubbling' wherever possible and encouraging excellent personal hygiene.

We will also be arranging for additional deep cleaning of our site on a regular basis and doing everything we can to maintain a safe environment for everyone following their return.

**One particular change is that the government is now requiring staff and students to wear face coverings in all parts of the academy wherever social distancing is not possible. This includes classrooms as well as other indoor communal areas. Please ensure, therefore, that your child is aware of this new expectation and we appreciate your support in doing everything you can to help us enforce it. The only exception to this is if your child is medically exempt. If this is the case, please notify us at [office@poolhayes.atrust.org.uk](mailto:office@poolhayes.atrust.org.uk)**

#### **Arrangements for our phased return**

**Week beginning Monday 1<sup>st</sup> March 2021: staff testing will take place.**

**Week beginning Monday 8<sup>th</sup> March 2021:** We will be inviting students by year group to the academy to be tested by our trained lateral flow testing team. Students will be given an allocated time slot in order to minimise risk as much as possible. Students will not be expected to wear academy uniform on the day of their first lateral flow testing. However, students should wear an appropriate face covering (unless they are medically exempt).

When travelling to and from the academy and whilst here, students should aim to socially distance themselves from all staff and students in order to minimise risk as far as possible. Once each student has taken the test, they will return immediately home. Notification of the test results will be emailed to the contact details submitted on the consent form. Face to face education will start for each year group on the day following their negative lateral flow test. We have prioritised 'exam group' students for obvious reasons. On their return to the academy for face to face education, all students should wear full academy uniform.

Please see below for details of each year group's lateral flow first test and their return to face to face education date:

	<b>Lateral Flow Testing Day/time</b>	<b>Return to face to face education (Start and end times for each year group as per Autumn term 2020)</b>
<b>Year 11</b>	<b>Monday 8<sup>th</sup> March</b> 8.45am – 9.40am Surnames A-M 9.40am – 10.35am Surnames N-Z	<b>Tuesday 9<sup>th</sup> March</b>
<b>Year 13</b>	<b>Monday 8<sup>th</sup> March</b> 12.45pm – 1.40pm Surnames A-M 1.40pm – 2.35pm Surnames N-Z	<b>Tuesday 9<sup>th</sup> March</b>
<b>Year 10</b>	<b>Tuesday 9<sup>th</sup> March</b> 8.45am – 9.40am Surnames A-M 9.40am – 10.35am Surnames N-Z	<b>Wednesday 10<sup>th</sup> March</b>
<b>Year 12</b>	<b>Tuesday 9<sup>th</sup> March</b> 12.45pm – 1.40pm Surnames A-M 1.40pm – 2.35pm Surnames N-Z	<b>Wednesday 10<sup>th</sup> March</b>
<b>Year 7</b>	<b>Wednesday 10<sup>th</sup> March</b> 8.45am – 9.40am Surnames A-M 9.40am – 10.35am Surnames N-Z	<b>Thursday 11<sup>th</sup> March</b>
<b>Year 8</b>	<b>Thursday 11<sup>th</sup> March</b> 8.45am – 9.40am Surnames A-M 9.40am – 10.35am Surnames N-Z	<b>Friday 12<sup>th</sup> March</b>
<b>Year 9</b>	<b>Friday 12<sup>th</sup> March</b> 8.45am – 9.40am Surnames A-M 9.40am – 10.35am Surnames N-Z	<b>Monday 15<sup>th</sup> March</b>

## Remote education

We will continue to provide a full remote education offer to all of our students before their return to face to face education. However, please note that on the day that each specific year group are tested, no live lessons will take place for that particular year group. Instead, work will be set by teachers in order for remote learning to still continue. Live lessons will continue as normal for other year groups who are not having to attend the academy for testing to take place, until face to face teaching resumes for all.

## Secondary and tertiary tests

As an academy, the government has made it clear that all students who have given consent will need to be tested three times, each test being 3-5 days apart. Therefore, we have also planned for these tests to take place following the initial tests outlined above. Our aim is that all three tests would have been completed by Friday 19<sup>th</sup> March 2021. Following this, students who have consented to lateral flow testing will be given home testing kits.

## Home testing kits

Following the three lateral flow tests that will be completed in school, all students who have consent for lateral flow tests will be given home testing kits. Government guidance is that tests are completed twice weekly, 3-5 days apart. It is up to you when your child does the testing. Our staff will also be provided with home testing kits so will be tested twice weekly.

Please note that from the first day of face to face education for each particular year group indicated above, attendance will now be compulsory as it was prior to the pandemic for all students, apart from those who are able to demonstrate that they have been advised to shield on medical grounds. If your child has a shielding letter from their GP, please make us aware of this as soon as possible by emailing us at [office@poolhayes.atrust.org.uk](mailto:office@poolhayes.atrust.org.uk)

## What if my child currently attends key worker provision?

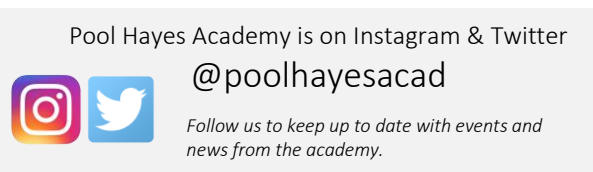
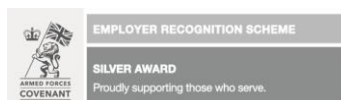
Key worker provision will remain in place as normal. Therefore, students who are already attending key worker provision can continue to attend the academy during the week commencing Monday 8<sup>th</sup> March 2021. Students will have their lateral flow test on their respective day and will join their year groups for face to face education according to the appropriate date listed above.

## Covid Testing

As stated above, we will offer three tests to all students as they return over the period of the first two weeks. Testing is not compulsory but is strongly encouraged.

If you are happy for your child to be tested (or for students over the age of 16, if you are happy to be tested), please fill in the consent form via the link below by Thursday 4<sup>th</sup> March 2021. If you have already completed the consent form due to your child attending our key worker provision, then you do not need to complete this again.

<https://forms.office.com/Pages/ResponsePage.aspx?id=8vifwdall0ecKumA7HSBFLjQKK7FFrJOvINJ1Z9jAvdUQVRPTTdAWERVSyWn1IZTDhCVFpRRIVGSC4u>



If you are unable to complete the form in the link above and would like to give consent, please contact us to request a paper copy on 01902 368147 or by emailing [office@poolhayes.attrust.org.uk](mailto:office@poolhayes.attrust.org.uk)

Students will take the test themselves but will be supervised by trained staff. The 'lateral flow' tests are quick and easy using a swab of your nose and throat. Please note if your child has had a positive PCR test in the last 90 days, you should not engage with this testing programme. However, we would still require a consent form in order for us to provide home testing kits, following the 90 day period.

After the initial period of on-site testing, we will be issuing home testing kits for you to use with your children twice a week.

### **What happens if the result is positive?**

Positive results (which take around half an hour from testing) will be shared directly with the student participating. Where the participant is under 16, their parents or legal guardians will also be informed via text or email on the number/email address provided on the consent form. Guidance on safe travel and additional precautions will be provided along with test results.

Individuals with a positive LFD test result will need to self-isolate in line with the guidance for households with possible coronavirus infection. In this instance, further information and guidance would be given, based on the individual case.

### **What happens if the result is negative?**

Negative results will not be shared directly with the student participating. However, you will receive confirmation of a negative result via a text or email to the contact details provided on the consent form. Students that test negative will be able to attend the academy and resume their activities as normal, as outlined in the table above.

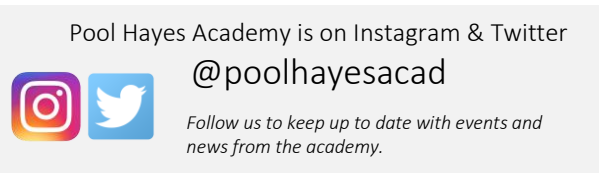
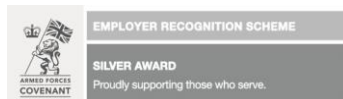
### **What if a close contact at school tests positive?**

A close contact of someone in the academy who has tested positive for COVID-19 will need to self-isolate as per the national guidelines. This does not apply to household members. Further details will be provided at the time, as appropriate to each case

### **What if my child develops symptoms?**

This testing programme is for people with no symptoms. If your child develops symptoms at any time (such as a high temperature; a new, continuous cough; or a loss or change to their sense of smell or taste) they must immediately self-isolate, and book a test by calling 119 (England, Wales and Northern Ireland) or 0300 303 2713 (Scotland) or visiting <https://www.gov.uk/get-coronavirus-test>.

Public health guidance remains that if your child either develops symptoms of Covid-19 or tests positive, they must self-isolate and you should ensure that we are aware in order that we can assist with contact tracing.



**What if my child or someone in my household has received a positive Covid test result?**

As previously communicated, if you or your child are self-isolating or have received a positive Covid-19 test result it is important to contact Helen Harris (Attendance Officer) as soon as possible by emailing: [h.harris@poolhayes.attrust.org.uk](mailto:h.harris@poolhayes.attrust.org.uk)

If you prefer to talk to a member of staff regarding a positive Covid-19 test result, please call our reception on 01902 368147. A message will be taken and passed on to the Attendance Team.

**Clubs and After-School Provision**

From Monday 8<sup>th</sup> March 2021 after school sports and activity clubs can take place.

The Government's announcement indicates we are tentatively returning to normal. However, I wanted to reiterate how alert we are to the continued risk of Covid-19. We will continue to adhere to stringent health and safety measures now, and when fully open. Your support in helping us be as safe as possible is much appreciated and will help ensure we stay open to all students, and keep your child, our staff, and you, safe.

I hope this letter is helpful, and reassuring, but please do contact the academy office on 01902 368147 or via email at [office@poolhayes.attrust.org.uk](mailto:office@poolhayes.attrust.org.uk) if you have any questions.

Yours sincerely,

P. J. Harris

Mrs Harris  
Principal

