

Ref: KHO/073/20-21

5 March 2021

Dear Parents/Carers

We are delighted to be welcoming back all pupils to the academy next week. It has been lovely to meet with the Year 10,11,12 &13 students as they have come into the academy for testing and to meet their tutor today. Pupils will return on a slightly staggered start, by year group, full details of which have been sent to you. Details can also be found on our website. Click here [Parent/Carer letters](#)

We have built into our return, time to welcome and support pupils back into the academy, reinforcing the academy expectations in the Health & Safety requirements around Covid-19 in terms of hand sanitising and 2m social distance.

### **Testing**

We are delighted by the very large uptake of the testing opportunities within the academy and we believe that this is a very important part of our approach to ensuring that we can bring everyone safely back into the academy. We would encourage any parents who have not yet given consent to have a conversation with us so that we can answer any questions.

Once we have completed three tests for everyone in school over the next week and a half, testing will then move to at home testing. We will be providing all pupils with home testing kits going forward and full information and instructions will be provided.

You may have seen recent information from the Government that families will also be able to receive home testing kits.

“Undertaking regular, rapid coronavirus (COVID-19) testing helps reduce transmission of the virus. Parents and other adults in households with children at school or college, who do not have symptoms, can now access regular, rapid coronavirus (COVID-19) testing. This includes childcare and support bubbles.

Tests are fast, easy and completely free. There are different ways for a household, childcare or support bubble to collect their test to take at home, twice-weekly:

- through your employer, if they offer testing to employees
- by collecting a home test kit from a local test site – anyone aged 18 or over can collect 2 packs of 7 tests
- by ordering a home test kit online – please do not order online if you can access testing through other routes, this frees up home delivery for those who need it most

If you have any queries about the tests, and you live in England, please call 119 (free from mobiles and landlines). Lines are open every day from 7am to 11pm.

Children of primary school age (and below) without symptoms are not being asked to take a test.

Testing is voluntary, but strongly recommended to all who are eligible. Alongside the vaccine, washing hands, wearing face coverings, and maintaining social distancing, rapid testing plays a vital role in reducing transmission rates. Getting into the habit of regular testing as part of our everyday lives will help us all to play our part and do what we can to protect each other.”

Pupils must not attend school if they are displaying any Covid-19 symptoms. The most common symptoms of coronavirus (Covid-19) are recent onset of:

- new continuous cough and/or
- high temperature and/or
- a loss of, or change in, normal sense of taste or smell (anosmia)"

### **Face coverings – Behaviour policy addendum**

Our expectation for pupils to wear face masks in the classroom on the return to school is based on the DfE's [operational guidance for schools](#), which applies from Monday 8<sup>th</sup> March and will be reviewed by March 28<sup>th</sup>. In light of this announcement, we have updated and had approved by Governors our Behaviour Policy. Please view our Return to School update policy addendum which is available on our website [Academy Policies](#). As all pupils have returned to school and as the roll out of the initial tests are successful, we will continue to review and update all of our Health and Safety policies and practices.

### **Information for parents and carers about attending schools, nurseries and colleges in the spring term 2021**

Please click on the link below to view Government guidance for parents and carers

- [What parents and carers need to know about attending nurseries, schools and colleges](#)

### **Driving onto Site**

With effect from Monday 8<sup>th</sup> March the drive entrance gates will be closed to all vehicles between 8.15-8.45am and 3.15-3.50pm, Monday to Thursday and 2.35-3.10pm at the end of the school day on Friday. Please be reminded that parents/carers should not be accessing the academy drive in cars at the start or end of the school day. If you are accessing the drive at other times we would ask that you are mindful of our speed restrictions and other vehicles.

Please arrange to drop and collect your son/daughter away from the academy and ideally away from Grange Street. If there are circumstances which mean that it is essential that your son/daughter is collected close to the academy, these need to be discussed with us and arrangements may be made for you to collect from an alternative area.

### **Safeguarding update - Omegle Chat Room**

Omegle is a free chat room which allows anyone to connect with other users and a login is not required. This forum presents serious internet dangers and safeguarding concerns. Please visit <https://www.getsafeonline.org/> for free expert advice to help keep your son/daughter safe online and Mrs Howard, our Safeguarding Lead, is always available to provide support.

### **Assembly Year 11 & 13 students – Centre Assessed Grades**

A follow-up assembly for all Year 11 and 13 students has been recorded to help keep everyone informed about the plans for Centre Assessed Grades which will replace the Summer examinations. Please click on this link to view our assembly - <https://youtu.be/gnoQ-JShWEQ>  
We will continue to keep everyone updated as we receive further information.

### **Free School Meal Vouchers**

Due to the full return of pupils from Monday 8<sup>th</sup> March 2021, vouchers for free school meals will no longer be issued. Please check the academy website for additional support for free school meals after 8<sup>th</sup> March.

### **Co and Extra-curricular activities**

Our weekly co-curricular sessions will recommence on Wednesday 17<sup>th</sup> March and we hope to be able to run extra-curricular activities after Easter, subject to Government guidance.

## **Letter from Derbyshire Council Council**

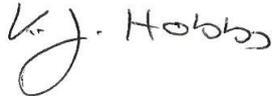
Please find attached to this letter, for your information, a letter from Councillor Alex Dale, regarding the return to school.

### **Dates for the diary**

- Monday 8<sup>th</sup> and Tuesday 9<sup>th</sup> March – staggered return of pupils to the academy
- Thursday 18<sup>th</sup> March - Year 9 Teenage Booster vaccinations (further details will be sent)
- Monday 22<sup>nd</sup> March to Thursday 1<sup>st</sup> April 2021 - Year 11 Mock Exams

We continue to offer help and support to all of our pupils, families, staff and community. If you do need to get in touch with us please email [info@davidnieper.academy](mailto:info@davidnieper.academy) and someone will be in touch.

Yours faithfully



Dr K Hobbs  
Headteacher