

24th February 2021

Dear Parent/Carer

As you will know, the Prime Minister has announced that schools will re-open on Monday 8 March and I am very much looking forward to welcoming students back to Rockwood Academy.

Students have worked incredibly hard to continue their education from home and I am very proud of the remote learning and support we have been able to offer during these past challenging weeks. However, no virtual experience can replace face-to-face teaching and it is really good to be returning to the classroom.

We are finalising our plans for the first week back, which will include staggering return dates for different year groups. I will confirm these with you as soon as at the beginning of next week.

As has been the case throughout the pandemic, the welfare of students and staff is our priority and we will do everything we can to make the school environment as safe as possible.

Along with our existing, stringent measures of staggered timetables, creating dedicated bubble zones, ensuring social distancing and wearing of masks, we will also be introducing testing. We have already successfully implemented testing for staff and key worker children in school since January. Now, we are considering how best to scale up our approach ahead of 8 March, while keeping disruption to a minimum. Please be reassured that we will follow government guidelines and best practice to ensure testing is safe and efficient. All staff involved will undertake rigorous training and we will follow stringent processes to manage any positive results, isolating those affected and completing thorough track and trace to limit the spread of the virus. All students must have permission from their parent/carer to be tested. If you have not done so already, please go to <https://forms.gle/rnh6R32ygP9RXDt97> and complete the form as soon as possible. I will be providing further information about testing, including arrangements for home testing, next week.

My team will be using the next week to fine-tune our plans to ensure we have everything in place to welcome students back. Our focus will be on helping them adjust after this period away from school, and to supporting their catch up in whatever way is necessary.

I would like to take this opportunity to thank you for your patience and support over this past term – it has been a real community effort.

Kind regards.



Ms S Darr
Headteacher