

Principal: Mark Woodhouse

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1st March 2021

Dear Parent /Carer

Re: Phased re-opening of The Nicholas Hamond Academy from Monday 8th March 2021

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 8th March, with testing in place for all students. The Government has given secondary schools discretion as to how 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.

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 ensure the school is as safe as it possibly can be. Your child's health, and the health of all our students and staff, is the most important factor always for us.

Arrangements for our phased return

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.

Please find attached a further letter outlining the arrangements for the testing and for you and/or your child to give consent to taking part in the testing scheme. Please read this and return the relevant consent to us as described as soon as possible and ahead of 8th March.

We will be inviting students to return year group by year group as follows:

- **Year 11 should attend on Monday 8 March**
- **Years 10 and 11 should attend on Tuesday 9th March**
- **Years 7, 10 and 11 should attend on Wednesday 10th March**
- **Years 7, 8, 10 and 11 should attend on Thursday 11th March**
- **All Year Groups should attend on Friday 12th March**

In order to support the testing of each new year group each day, we are planning to ask students to stagger their return through the morning. i.e. students who walk or make their own way into the academy will be asked to come in a little later than normal on their first morning to ease the pressure on our testing capacity. Full details of the exact times we will need students to return will follow in a further communication in the next few days.

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Determined to be...

'the best that we can be'

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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 at home.

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.

Please note that from the first day of attendance 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.

We will continue to provide a remote education offer to students prior to their return.

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. 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 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 or use the office@tnha.org.uk email address if you have any questions.

Yours sincerely



Mark Woodhouse
Principal