

23 February 2021

Dear Parents/Carers

We are delighted to be welcoming students back into school in the very near future, however, there is considerable adaption to the functioning of the school day as a result of yesterday's announcement. I intend to write to all parents with specific details on Friday 26 February when the leadership team have had time to read all of the guidance and to put a cohesive plan together. However, there are a couple of issues to be aware of to enable advance planning: students are expected to undertake four lateral flow tests in the first two weeks back, three in school and one at home; students are not to return to lessons until they have recorded their first negative test. I hope you can appreciate that the testing of 1500 students is not an instantaneous process and it is likely that the school will not be operating normally for the first few days but be open, solely, to conduct first tests for all students on a timetabled basis. The second and third tests will be carried out on a rota while students engage in their normal timetables, hopefully this will minimise disruption to learning. I shall resend a copy of the consent form with my communication on Friday.

Secondly, masks are now to be worn in classrooms. I understand the logic from a health perspective, but do see this as a retrograde step for learning. I hope this will be a very temporary measure. As a result, we are asking parents to resend any exemption requests to the wearing of masks to our Pastoral Support Manager kcupit@knoleacademy.org. We shall be issuing different badges to reflect the change in legislation and the old badges will be voided.

This Friday, 26 February, we shall be offering our mobile library and stationery service at the normal times. This will be the last time this service is available.

Best wishes



David Collins
Headteacher