

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

**Parents and Carers  
of TQEA Students**



**The Queen Elizabeth  
Academy**

“We Can and We Will”

Dear Parents/Carers

Following on from my letter last week explaining Lateral Flow Tests and requesting consent from parents, I am delighted to share our plans for the safe, steady and gradual return of TQEA students from March 8<sup>th</sup>. We are excited to see our students again, but most do so in the safest possible environment.

**The consent form for Lateral Flow Tests is [\(here\)](#) and the deadline for return is Wednesday March 3<sup>rd</sup> at 3:30pm.** This will ensure we can prepare our testing staff knowing the numbers that we will be supporting.

***Arrangements for our phased return***

At TQEA students will return to the academy by year group:

	<b>Year Group Return</b>	<b>Time of return for students who have consented to tests</b>	<b>Time of return for students who have not consented to tests</b>
<b>Monday</b>	11	By appointment time (AM)	8:45 am
<b>Tuesday</b>	10	By appointment time (AM)	8:45 am
<b>Wednesday</b>	9	By appointment time (AM)	8:45 am
<b>Thursday</b>	7	By appointment time (AM)	8:45 am
<b>Friday</b>	8	By appointment time (AM)	8:45 am

Students **who have consented** to tests will be given an appointment time to take their test in the Sports Hall. Once tested they will be admitted to their classrooms when their negative test result is confirmed. **Parents and carers of students consenting to tests will be informed of their test appointment time by Friday. They will come in to the academy on their specified return day for the appointment time.**

Students **who are not consenting** to tests must come into school as normal and should line up in tutor positions ready to enter the academy safely. In addition, students who have been positive for Covid-19 within the last 90 days should not take part in school tests until that time frame has passed, they should attend at 8.45am and line up for tutor time.

Following the testing period in the academy, Home testing kits will be issued for tests to be carried out at home with adult supervision.

We strongly advise that students are tested in the academy for their safety and for the safety of our community.

## Arrangements for learning

	Year 11	Year 10	Year 9	Year 8	Year 7
Monday March 8 <sup>th</sup>  Key Worker provision open	Face to Face Learning in the academy	Remote learning live and/or set lessons on Teams	Remote learning live and/or set lessons on Teams	Remote learning live and/or set lessons on Teams	Remote learning live and/or set lessons on Teams
Tuesday March 9 <sup>th</sup>  Key worker provision open	Face to Face Learning in the academy	Face to Face Learning in the academy	Remote learning live and/or set lessons on Teams	Remote learning live and/or set lessons on Teams	Remote learning live and/or set lessons on Teams
Wednesday March 10 <sup>th</sup>  Key worker provision open	Face to Face Learning in the academy	Face to Face Learning in the academy	Face to Face Learning in the academy	Remote learning live and/or set lessons on Teams	Remote learning live and/or set lessons on Teams
Thursday March 11 <sup>th</sup>  Key worker provision open	Face to Face Learning in the academy	Face to Face Learning in the academy	Face to Face Learning in the academy	Remote learning live and/or set lessons on Teams	Face to Face Learning in the academy
Friday March 12 <sup>th</sup>	Face to Face Learning in the academy	Face to Face Learning in the academy	Face to Face Learning in the academy	Face to Face Learning in the academy	Face to Face Learning in the academy

Students will return to face to face learning as denoted in the table above. Students not in the academy for face to face learning will either have a live lesson on Teams as they have done so during the lockdown period or will have work set in the Teams folder that they are expected to do. Teachers will indicate to their classes which of these scenarios applies. Registrations each morning will be face to face in the academy as per the return rota or will be live on Teams at 8:45 am for those students at home.

### Key Worker Provision

Key worker provision will remain at the academy during the week beginning March 8<sup>th</sup> and, once their year group peers are in, students will re-join their year group bubble.

### Expectations and safety on the return to the academy

The DfE have stated clearly that school attendance is compulsory for all pupils from March 8<sup>th</sup> including parents' legal duty to secure their child's attendance at school. Students who are clinically extremely vulnerable and have been asked to shield by a medical professional should continue do so. As before if students exhibit any Coronavirus symptoms they are expected to remain at home and request a test.

Please ensure your child returns in the full and correct TQEA academy uniform including the wearing of uniform policy shoes. Thank you to all parents and carers for supporting our high standards in the academy and

ensuring that, as a result, staff are left to support children as they re-connect with the routines of face to face education.

### **Safety Features and Face Masks –**

On return the safety features that applied prior to lockdown will continue and these will include hand washing and face mask wearing. The bubble system will continue as before with regular deep cleaning taking place in each of the bubble areas.

The government has extended its recommendations on face mask wearing as stipulated in the guidance. Academies are asked to ensure students and staff wear masks in the recommended circumstances:

***“In addition, we now also recommend in schools, that face coverings should be worn in classrooms or during activities unless social distancing can be maintained. This does not apply in situations where wearing a face covering would impact on the ability to take part in exercise or strenuous activity, for example in PE lessons.”***

Students are exempt from wearing a face mask on medical grounds or in the case where someone relies on lip reading, clear sound or facial expression to communicate. To request exemption on one of these grounds please contact: [j.bickley@tgea.org.uk](mailto:j.bickley@tgea.org.uk) before noon on Friday March 5<sup>th</sup> in order for exemption passes to be issued to students on their return to the academy.

In the event of an identified positive case of Coronavirus in the academy close contacts will be contact traced by the academy to isolate for 10 days. Education will continue to be provided for those students remotely. As before this lockdown period the academy will work with Public Health England and will follow their guidance in the event of any confirmed cases.

### **Pastoral support –**

At TQEA we recognise and are thankful of the part parents have played in supporting their child’s remote education for the past 9 weeks and it has been inspiring to see the progress that students have made under these conditions. Education and progress has remained a strong focus throughout this latest lockdown period. However, the focus of students’ return will be re-connection personally and pastorally with the wider world. Therefore, we are devoting time in the first two weeks to allow students to re-connect with their feelings, their teachers and their friends in meaningful ways and to allow them to express their thoughts having emerged from the relative isolation of the home environment.

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 reception if you have any questions.

Yours sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'N Harding', with a long horizontal stroke extending to the right.

Mr N Harding  
Principal  
The Queen Elizabeth Academy