



Magna Academy

Poole

an Aspirations Academy

Principal: Ms N Ullah

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@MagnaAcademy

3rd March 2021

Dear Parent/Carer

As a follow up to my letter last week, I am writing to detail the plans for the return of our students from the 8th March onwards. The staff at Magna Academy are excited to welcome all students back to the academy. We recognise that this is a remarkable cohort of students. The vast majority have quickly adapted to the restricted freedom of lockdown and the introduction of remote learning, demonstrating great resilience. This cohort of students has had to show great flexibility adopting an entirely new way of working online, many of them outside of their comfort zone. As a result of such a challenging period, lots of our students have started to develop a more open-minded approach, asking more questions and looking for new innovative ways of doing things. It is really important that we congratulate and celebrate students on their return to the academy as well as capitalising on these new skills. This is in addition to us taking a forensic approach when assessing and planning for their learning to make the most of their time at the academy.

As professionals within the academy we have focused on identifying and appreciating silver linings. There can be no doubt how difficult this period has been for our community but this turbulence has resulted in greater opportunities and access to virtual training, encouraged us to undertake even more research and innovate and we are committed to using this new learning to continue to improve in the future.

Arrangements and expectations

Attached to this letter are three documents, one that outlines the specific arrangements for students returning to the academy, another that explains our expectations for the upcoming term, and some frequently asked questions around testing. Please can I ask that families carefully read through this information to ensure they are fully informed ahead of our students returning to the academy. It is important to note that our usual high standards around equipment and uniform remain.

Our full opening plan has been fully informed by the recently published government guidance and a full risk assessment produced to reflect this. These plans and our risk assessment have also been subject to rigorous quality assurance by the wider Aspirations Academies Trust.

Testing at the academy

As outlined in my previous letter the government has asked all schools to test students three times during the initial two weeks of their return. Since the start of term we have been successfully conducting lateral flow tests on students and staff who have been attending the academy. We have a fantastic team of fully trained support staff who have been doing an exceptional job carrying out these tests whilst putting students and staff at ease.

Government data shows that areas that carry out mass testing are able to monitor and suppress the spread of the Covid-19 virus more effectively. Whilst testing is voluntary, we strongly encourage parents/carers to give [consent](#) to test their child in order to help us keep everyone in our academy and wider community safe.

After the initial three tests have been completed in the academy, the government has recommended that parents/carers should test secondary school aged children twice each week at home. I will write to you again in the coming weeks with full details and guidance around home testing.

Face coverings

As explained in my previous letter there has been further strengthening of the control measures expected within schools. This is in order to create an even safer environment for students, staff and subsequently the wider community. Consequently, students will be required to wear face coverings in any indoor areas where two metre social distancing is not possible. At Magna this will mean that face coverings will now be required to be worn in classrooms in addition to corridors and larger communal areas. This will not apply when students are taking part in exercise during their PE lessons. Parents who have already notified us about a health or disability exemption do not need to inform us again. Students will be provided with a small badge so that staff are aware that they are exempt. Where parents/carers believe there to be a health or disability reason for not wearing a face covering during lessons they should inform us by contacting the relevant [Head of Year](#). I appreciate that for comfort and quality of education this is less than ideal however I ask for your support in this short term measure and can reassure you that this guidance will be reviewed by the government at Easter.

Attendance

Following the phased return for all students our normal attendance procedures will resume. As always we expect our students to maintain excellent attendance. We do understand that some students may find this period of change unsettling and encourage families to work with us to quickly re-establish good routines as we believe this will further bolster student well-being.



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I very much hope that the information shared today will reassure families of our detailed planning and the steps taken for a safe return. I remain confident that our thorough research and careful planning means that we are very well prepared to welcome our students back as safely as possible.

Yours sincerely



Ms N Ullah
Principal